Seventy Years of Collecting Cambridgeshire.

Cambridge Antiquarian Society and
Cambridgeshire Association for Local History

Mike Petty. 2024.

From my desk in Stretham I look across to two of the village’s large houses

Between me and that view is a computer screen.
On that computer I can view hundreds of books, 100 years of newspapers, thousands of pictures and much more relating to Cambridgeshire.

Virtually everything on my screen can also be found on whatever

In 1949 I was sent a postcard of my village; it was ‘old’ when sent.
I have been collecting Cambridgeshire material ever since.

MP0055a

mp0055b

mp0056 126.51

MP0056

mp0056a

Today that postcard can be viewed and downloaded by every child in the village, together with over 4,000 more

imageshttps://photos.app.goo.gl/FLZcw9CLY2pXcjtx5

mp0056b

MP0057

mp0165 SN02.21 mp165

mp0165a SN02.20

MP0166

MP0167

MP0168

MP0169

MP0171

MP0174

THE HISTORY

OF THE

PARISH OF STRETHAM,

In the County of Cambridgeshire.

A LECTURE

GIVEN TO THE

Stretham Branch of the Women's Institute, on October 3rd, 1922.

BY

Rev. S. Stewart Stitt, M.A.

Formerly Scholar of Pembroke College, — Cambridge, Rector of Stretham. —

PRICE 4D.

The Proceeds of the Sale will be given to the Organ Fund.

FRIDAY, The Cambridgeshire Times OCTOBER 2

HISTORY OF STRETHAM.

Interesting Account by the Rev. S. S. Stitt.

ANCIENT RECORD.

An extremely interesting account of the history of Stretham was given recently by the Rector of the Parish (the Rev. S. Stewart Stitt) in a lecture to the local branch of the Women's Institute ,and is now published as a booklet at the price of 4d. in aid of the Church organ fund.

The writer begins by explaining the meaning of the name Stretham—"Street Hame," or "Home at the Street." He carires his readers back in imagination to the time when huge Mammoth elephants tramped over the Fens and enormous winged lizards terrified the ancient dwellers, and draws a mental picture of Stretham in the days when the Roman legions controlled our land. Proceeding, he says :—

The Akeman Street was a Roman Road leading out from Cambridge [illegible] Stretham Field Gate, on the old 1836 Survey Map the ridge of the road became distinctly visible on the right of the present road and was plain until well into the Village of Stretham, whence it crossed the South Eastern corner of the Grass Field near the Cricket Field, then the Wilburton Road to the South-East corner of the Ten Acre Field, and joined the Ely Road by the Mill Way. Thence it ran in a straight line across the Eastern end of Grunty Fen, and became [illegible]

This brass, stripped of the brass canopies, has now been placed in the South Chapel of the present Church. It has a peculiar interest, as we are told the head dress or wimple is the earliest representation of a square one, (probably they had just begun to have a knowledge of starch) and the wedding ring is on the right hand, which we are told was in accordance with the usage of the Sarum Rite.

Dame Joan Swan was the mother of John and Richard Ryplingham, who were Rectors of Stretham in 1488. John held the benefice for only a few months ,apparently having received other preferment, as we read of one John Ryplingham, D.D., Rector of St. Martin's, Vintry, who died about 1519. He was succeeded in the said Church of St. Martin in 1508 by one Ralph Ryplingham, who had for his predecessor;—two others intervening, one William Swan, who died about 1456, and who probably was the husband of Dame Joan.

At the foot of the Altar steps in the north wall is a raised tomb under an arch with a Lombardic inscription : "Nichol de Kynbstone : gyst icci, Dieux de Salme : eit : merci : Amen."

Nicholas de Kingston was probably Rector in the time of Edward I, and Founder of the Chancel.

There was another coat of Arms, or probably a hatchment in this part of the [illegible] is down on the South Side of the Altar.

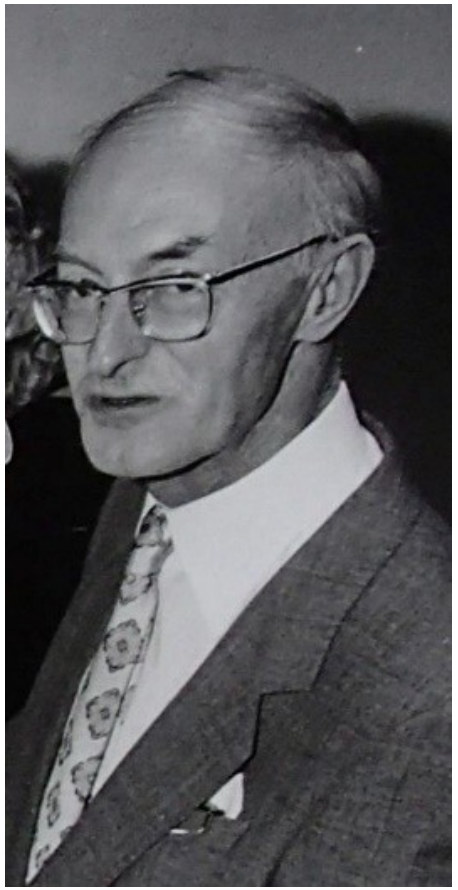
Up to the Restoration of the Church in 1876 there was a double piscina of rich carving; but it, too, had gone, and the record of its being there is fast becoming an ancient memory.

In 1866 the steeple was repaired, and a new weather cock put up. On November 28th, 1910, a steeplejack went up to the top of the steeple and brought the weather cock down. After it had been repaired [illegible]

While I was at Stretham School the Headmaster arranged for a lecture by a previous vicar to be retyped using the skills of the County Librarian's Secretary. Today the original is online

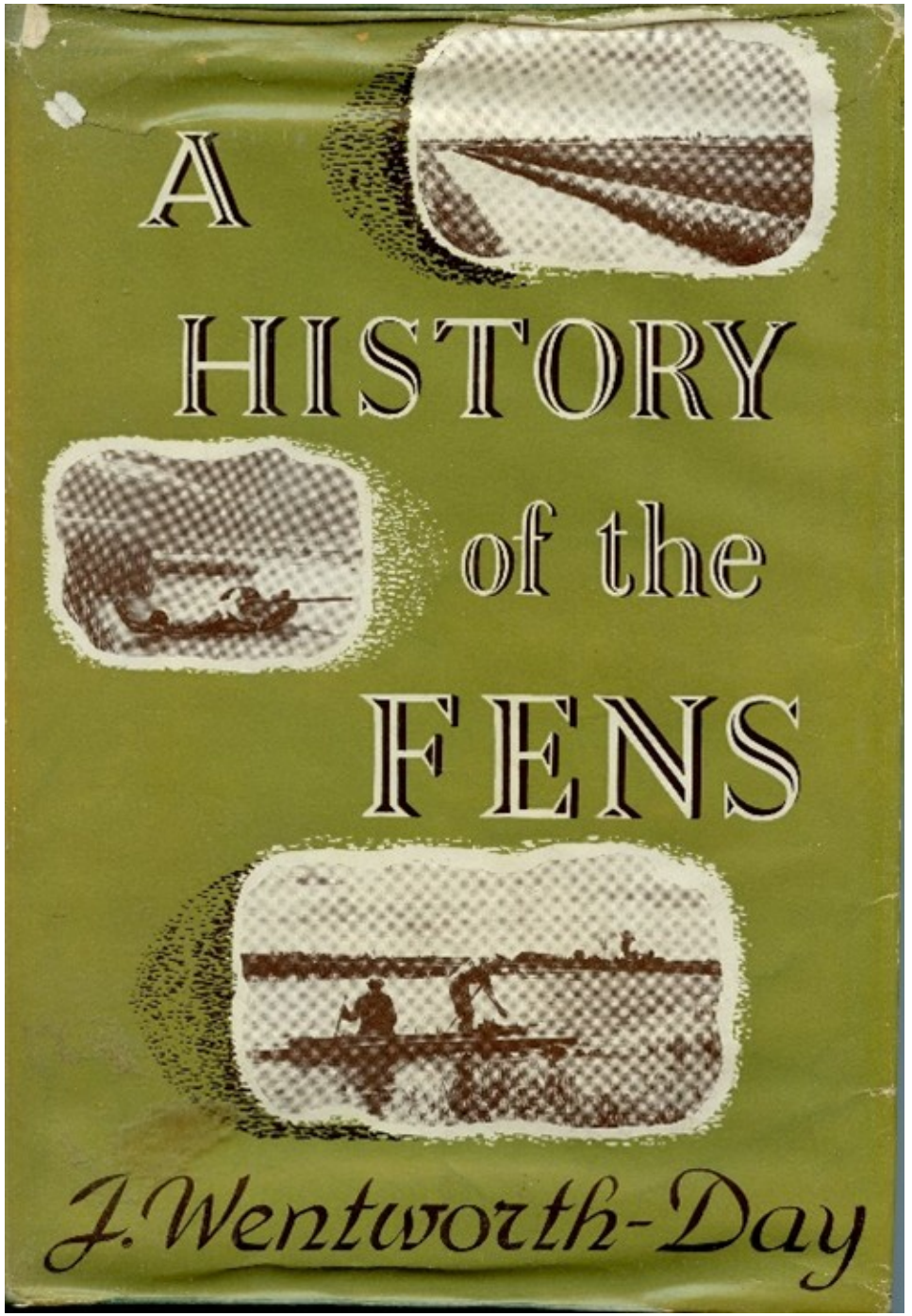
In 1964 I got a job at Cambridge City Library.

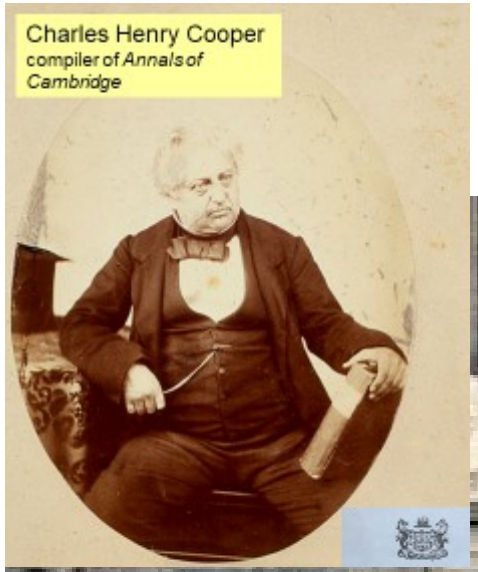
Eric Cave

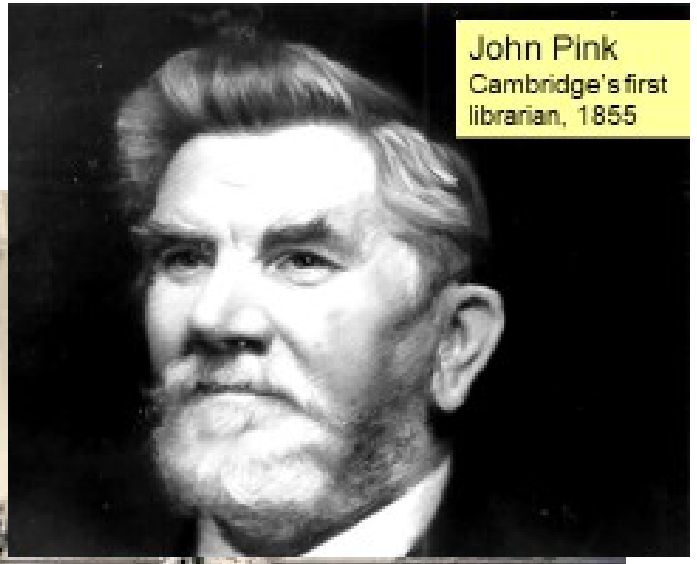


Andrew Armour

My attention was caught by a book that I knew,
Grandad had it.
Grandad was the village Rat Catcher.
He didn’t have much time for reading, but he had two books.
One was a book on boxing.
The other was ***‘A History of the Fens’*** by James Wentworth Day.
It brought the fens to life for him.



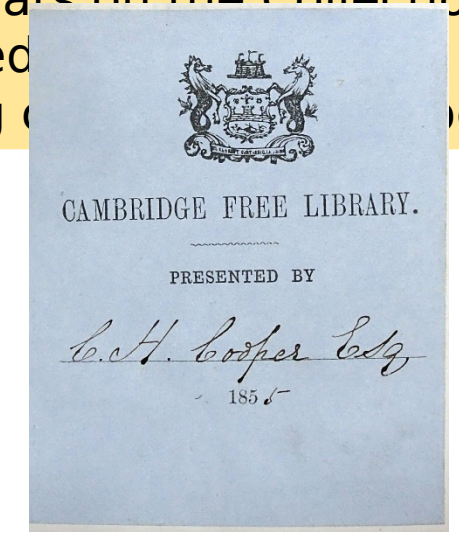




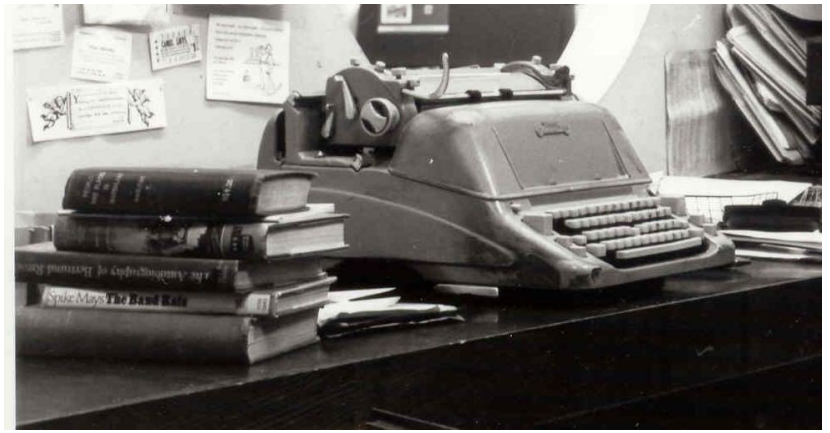
I discovered Cambridge Library had been started in 1855 and from the first had tried to collect everything published about Cambridge and Cambridgeshire.

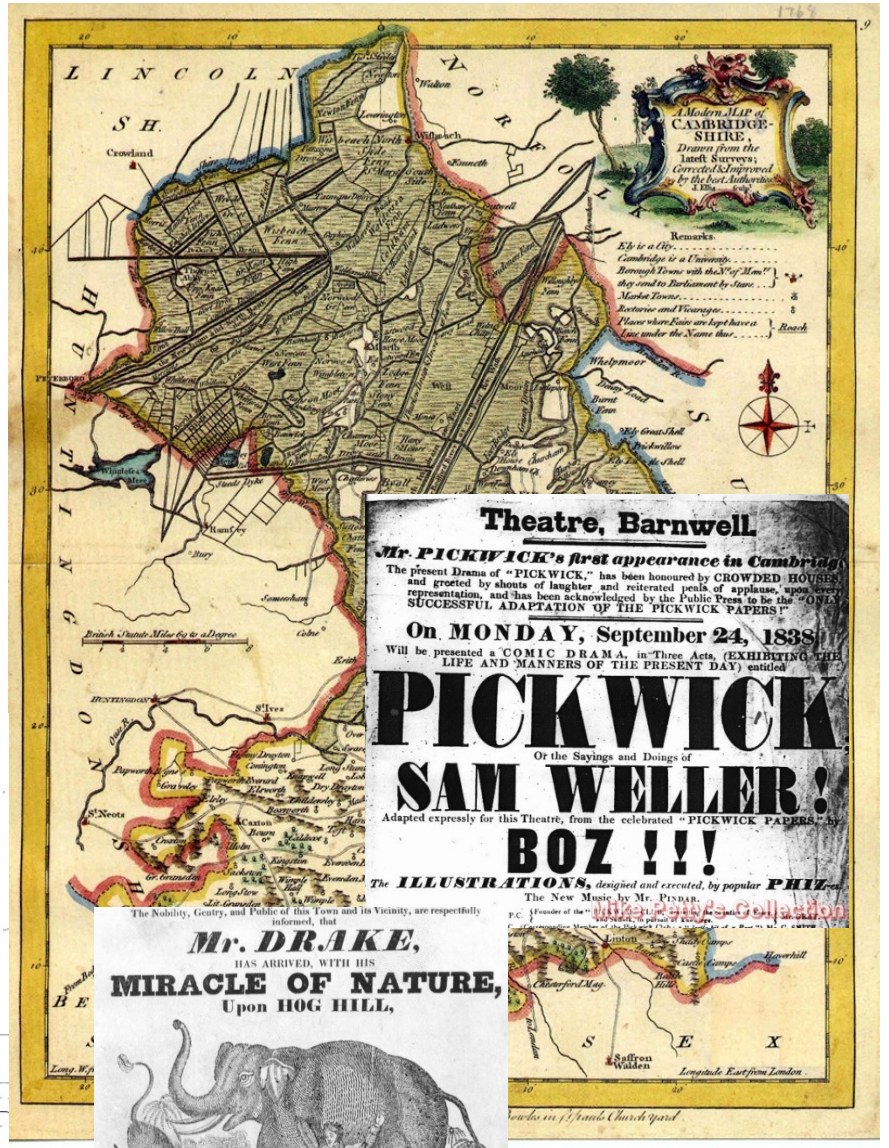
That Cambridgeshire material was by 1964 hidden away in a back room, largely forgotten

The Collection had been severely impacted when material relating to the University had been discarded, leading to resignation from members of the Library Committee.
Cliff Thurley, who had spent many years on the Collection, instructed
anything
bel

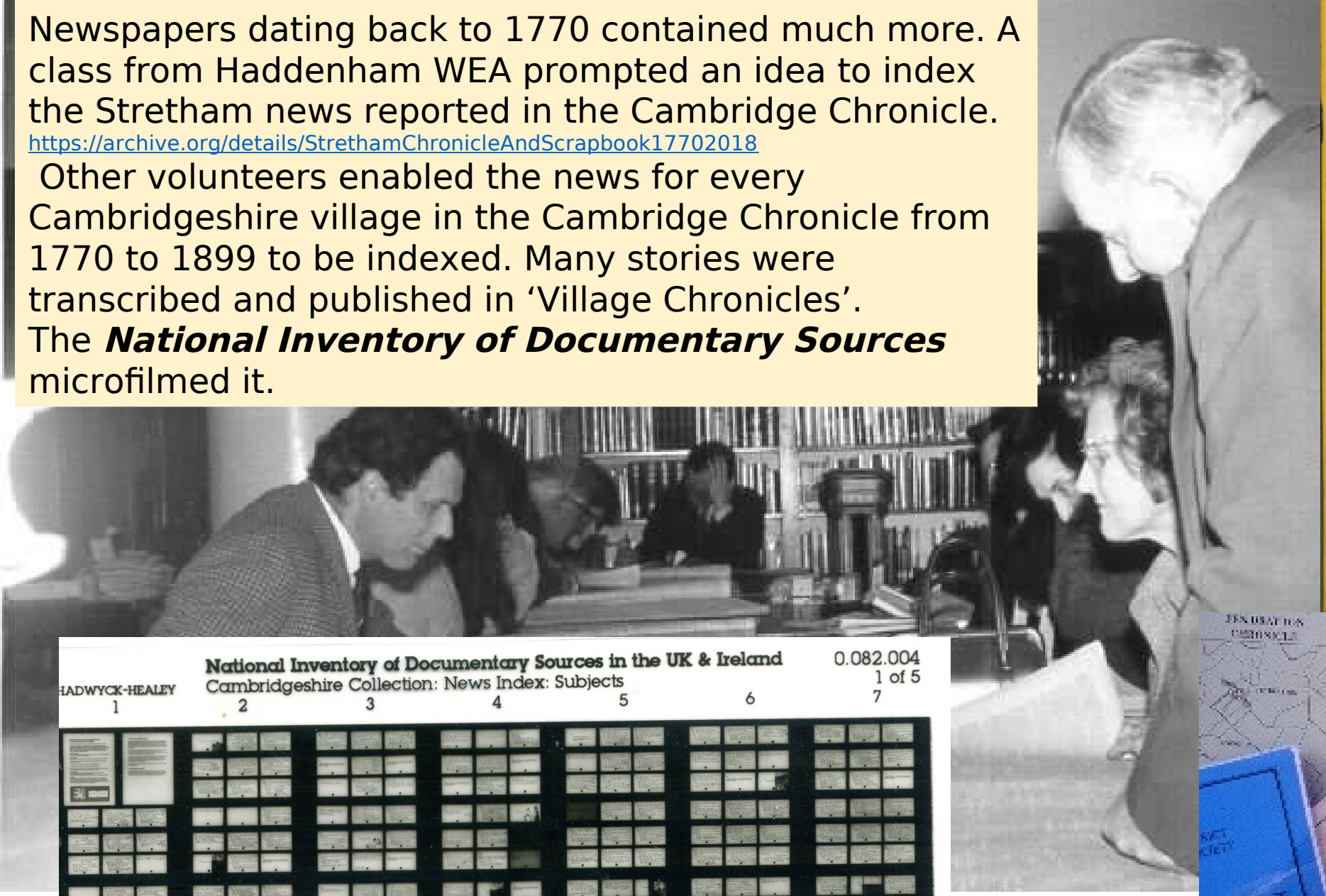


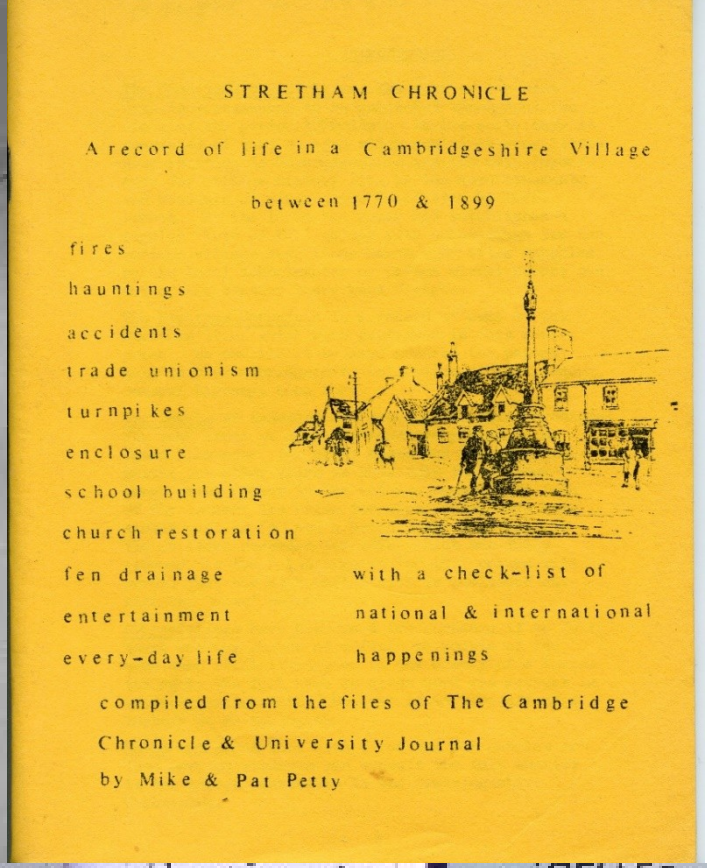
For 35 years I read and catalogued each book, maps, playbills, and handbills.
We often worked with Philip Ward of ***Oleander Press*** to produce new titles.

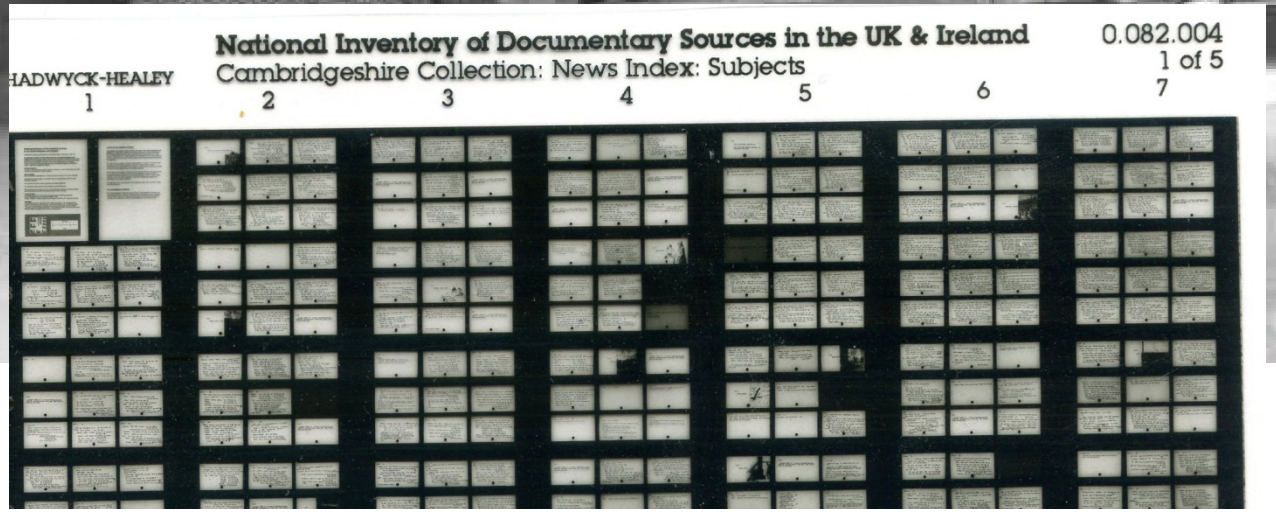


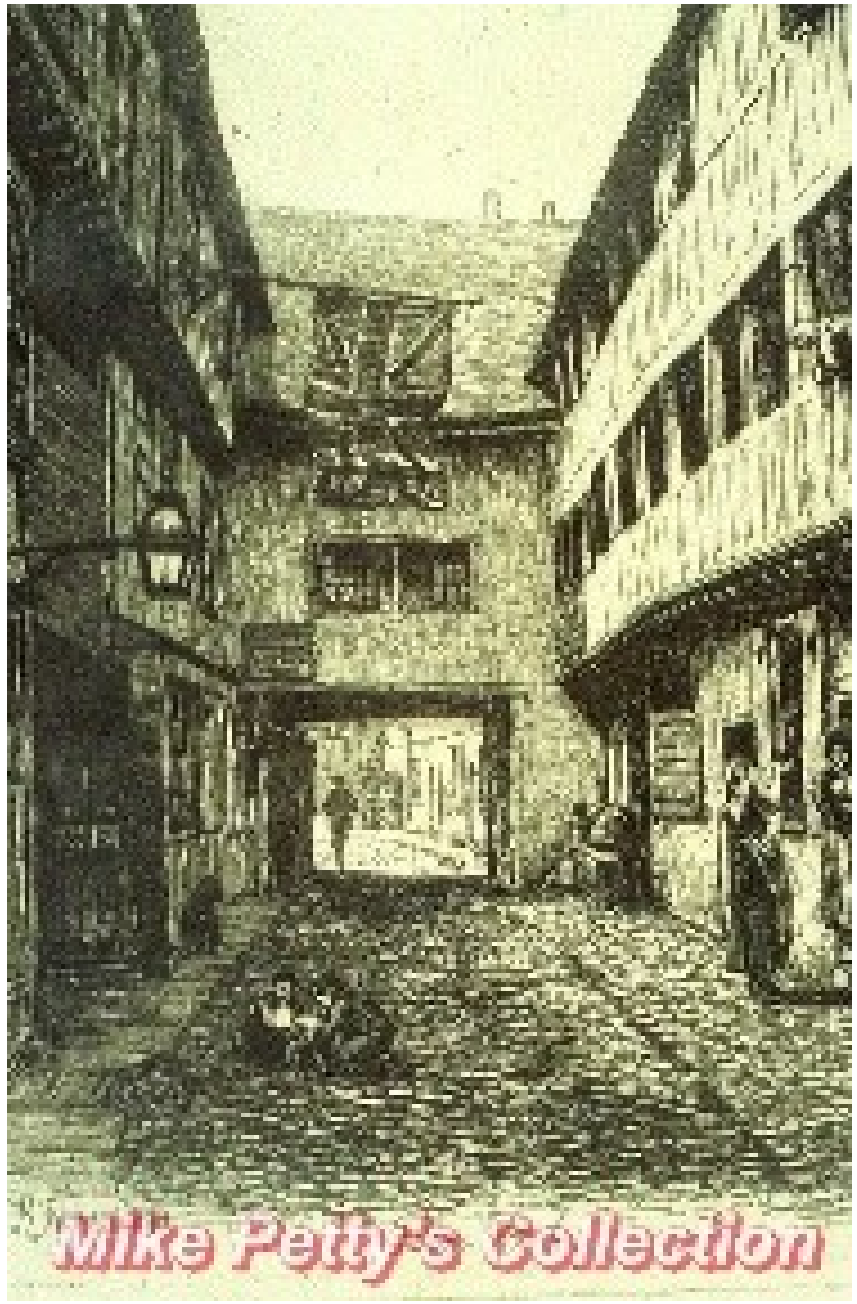


Newspapers dating back to 1770 contained much more. A class from Haddenham WEA prompted an idea to index the Stretham news reported in the Cambridge Chronicle.
https://archive.org/details/StrethamChronicleAndScrapbook17702018
Other volunteers enabled the news for every Cambridgeshire village in the Cambridge Chronicle from 1770 to 1899 to be indexed. Many stories were transcribed and published in 'Village Chronicles'.
The ***National Inventory of Documentary Sources*** microfilmed it.









There were hundreds of images from the 1690s, including Falcon Yard, together with pictures I took during the Lion Yard Redevelopment.

When Stearn's the Photographers closed down I inspected the negatives. Nothing could be done and they were dumped.
Later in 1977 we did arrange for a file of Stearn negatives from WWII to be brought back to Cambridge from a

F.DT. K77

13172

Camb's Collection expedition to Brighouse, Yorks to collect Stearn negs. 2 photos

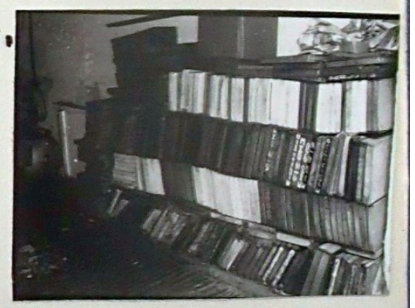
a. negs as found in garage,

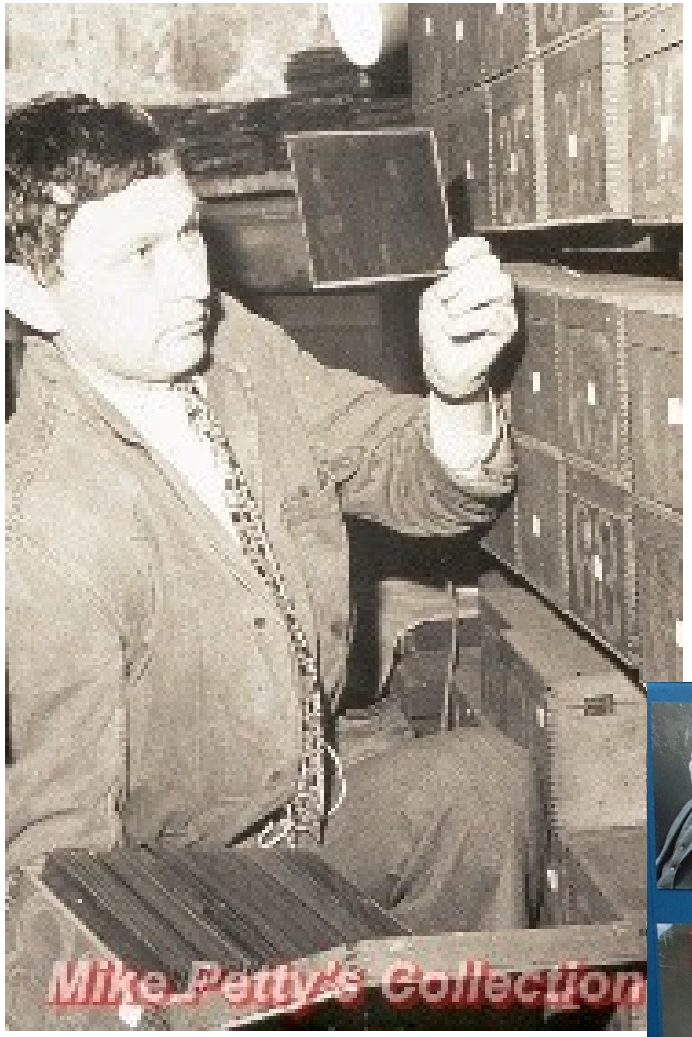
b. negs. piled into Eaden Lilley van

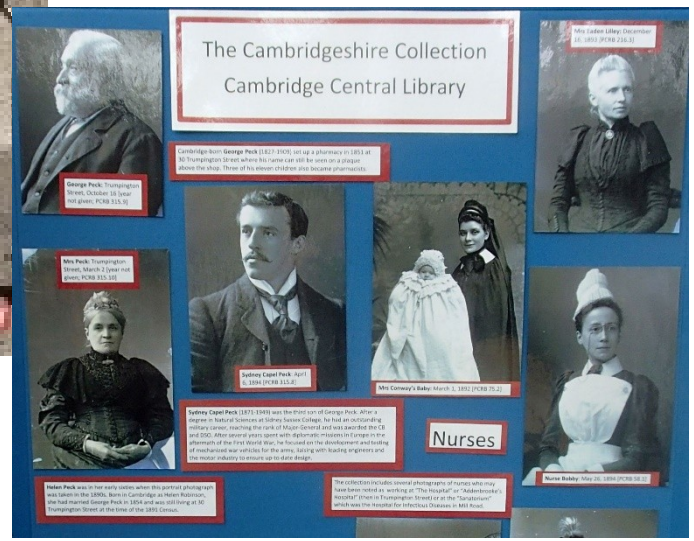
photos : MJP

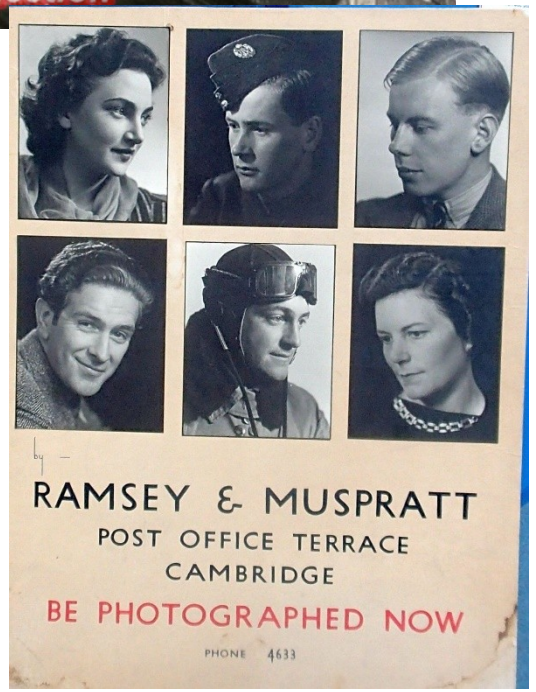
date 28 July 1977

neg : 77/27/1-2 & 3-5









Ramsey and Muspratt of Post Office Terrace had a similar issue with negatives. This time we sorted them.

Some time later we took a Removal Van to bring them back from Sutton Coldfield where a new photographer had moved them.

They have been listed by members of the Cambridgeshire Family History

Walter Martin Lane gave his Collection his photos of the Fen Floods of 1947. These were shared with residents and their memories recorded.
https://archive.org/details/mpc-32a-soundings-1947-flood.-1995

https://archive.org/details/great-flood-of-1947-lester-milbank-1997
.

It helped to revive the news of the Cambridgeshire Collection.

Cambridge collection grows

THE editor of the "Arbury News," Mr. J. Barham, of 76 Wimpole Road, Barton, has been busily engaged in collecting a file of the magazines of the Arbury Road Baptist Church dating back to 1949 and now these are to go into the Local Collection of the Cambridge City Library.

At the moment the extensive files of the magazines are being bound and I understand that it will fit in well with more than 40 church magazines which are taken each month by the collection. But, as anyone who has had anything to do with collections knows, they are of little use if the material they contain cannot be quickly retrieved.

I was interested to learn that the City Library is developing what it calls an S.D.I. system—Selective Dissemination of Information, in which a note is made of the interests of anyone engaged on research in local history in order that any item of interest to them can be drawn to their attention.

HERE & THERE
with Rodney Tibbs

Anyone can be included in the scheme simply by notifying the City Librarian of a particular interest and a continual check is kept on all incoming material. Recently, no less than 25 catalogue cards were made out for a book of no more than 20 pages.

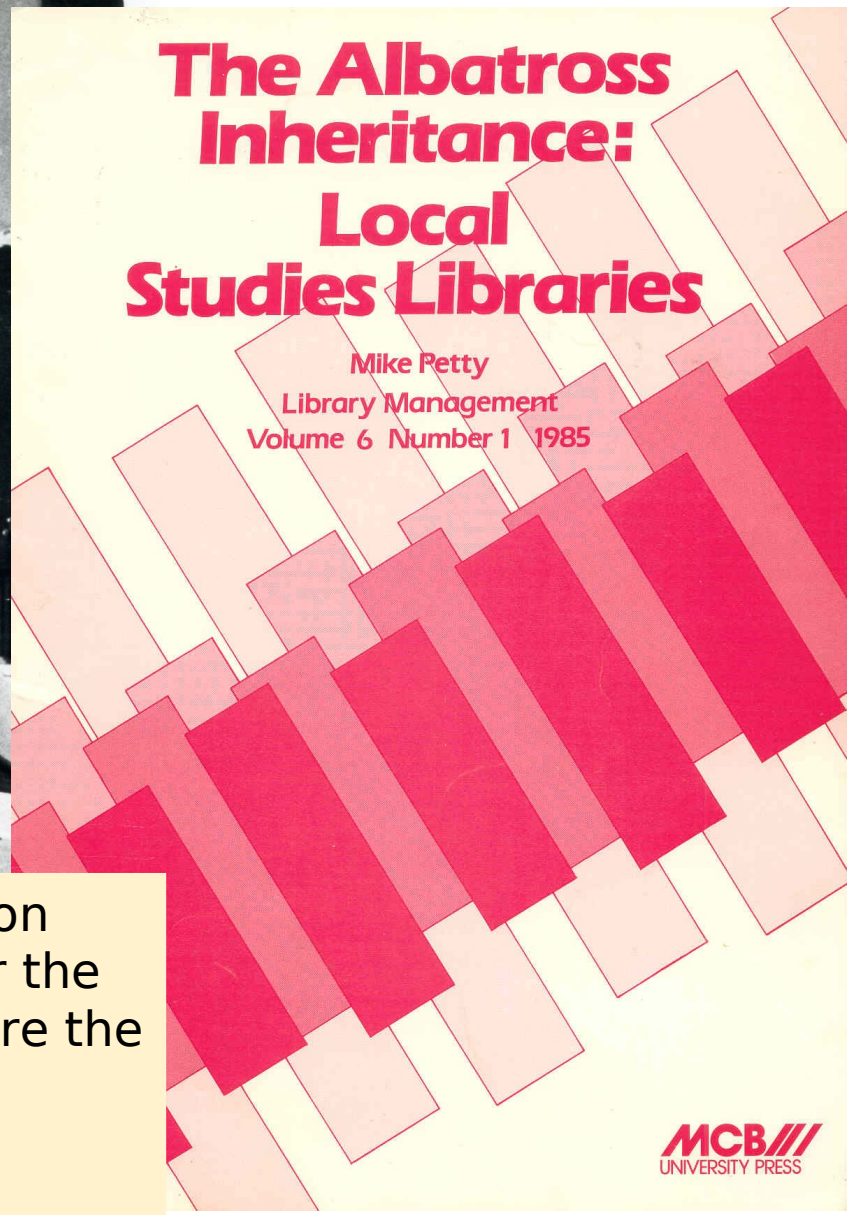
But the work of the local collection does not stop there. All types of local publications are acquired and catalogued, and more than 120 annual publications (medical officers' reports, for example) are received each year.

Street directories and telephone directories going back many years add value to the collection and photographs are included as well.

Quite a common procedure with old photographs is to copy them and return the originals to their owners. In this way the Local Collection has acquired 56 postcards of the Cambridge scene, produced by Stearns in the 1940's, and several views of Mr. Moon's shop in Fitzroy Street, circa 1915. Mr. Moon lent the originals for copying.

The collection now has more than 100 serial reports, 40 church magazines and 120 other annual publications, and demand is increasing. The use of books from the collection has increased by over 50 per cent in the last three years.

An Article in the Cambridge News by Rodney Tibbs in 12 November 1969, promoted the Collection.
It led to co-operation with the News and we worked with them for many years, including Editor, Robert Satchwell, Sara Payne, Chris Elliott and many other journalists.



Local Government Reorganisation brought a Cambridgeshire Collection suite on the third floor of a new Central Library in Lion Yard. However the new ‘combined’ Cambridgeshire Libraries gave no opportunity to share the local studies resources collected by the Isle of Ely, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and the City of Peterborough.

https://archive.org/details/PettyM.J.TheAlbatrossInheritance.1985

Dennis leads the way

THE launch of a display of Cambridgeshire's rich heritage struck the right note, thanks to Dennis of Grunty Fen.

The Cambridgeshire Heritage Showcase at the Central Library in Cambridge's Lion Yard was being opened by county councillor Wendy Silby when Dennis crashed in looking for his rusty bicycle, which featured among the exhibits.

And the formal opening became an impromptu singalong, with Dennis leading guests on his banjo.

The showcase celebrates Cambridgeshire's heritage and history and reflects the work of various county council departments and invited organisations.

It will be open daily until March.

Toasting their heritage . . . from left, Dennis of Grunty Fen, librarian of the Cambridge Collection Mike Petty, Wendy Silby and library manager Chris Heaton.

Pictur e: Dave Parfitt 4359315

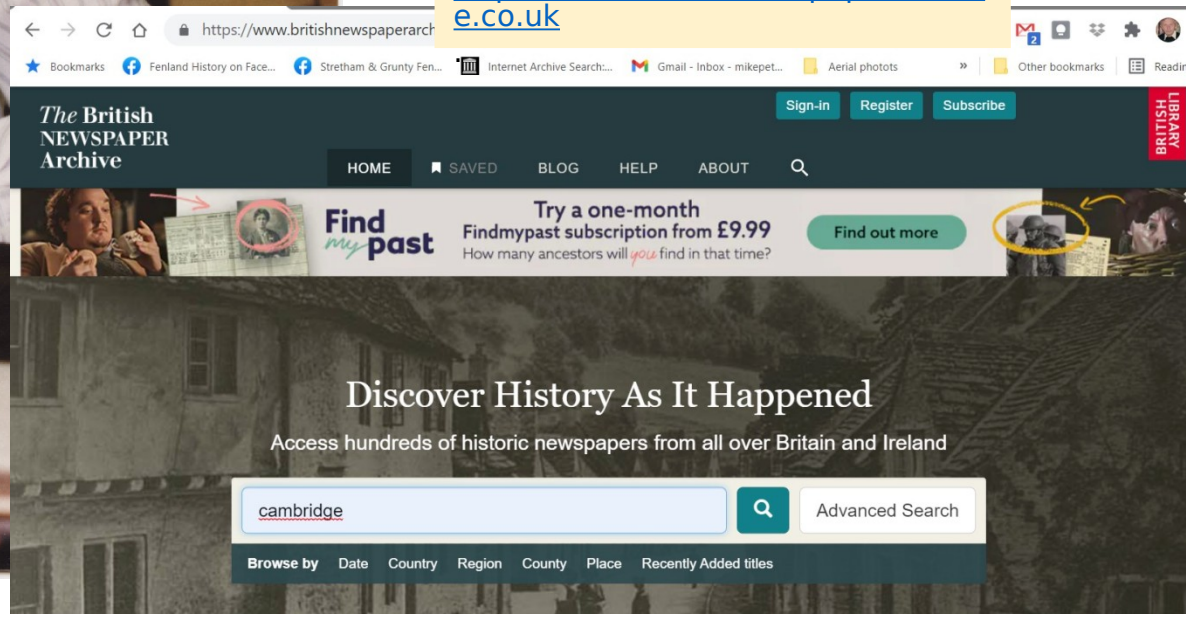
There was no formal collaboration between Local Studies Libraries, Archives and Museums. However officers came together to create a Cambridgeshire Heritage Showcase featuring displays from each of the resources that local historians needed.

The Cambridgeshire Collection and Secondary Schools 1983

The Collection established a Teaching Area for classes. Jim Brown, a History Teacher, was seconded to evaluate its resources for Secondary Schools, the Open University launched its project to share dissertations on CDs, Homerton College featured it on a training video for teachers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4X2gVuqyu3A

The Collection worked with the Newsplan Project to ensure all 35 Cambridgeshire papers were microfilmed. This has since been supplemented by the British Newspaper Archive https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

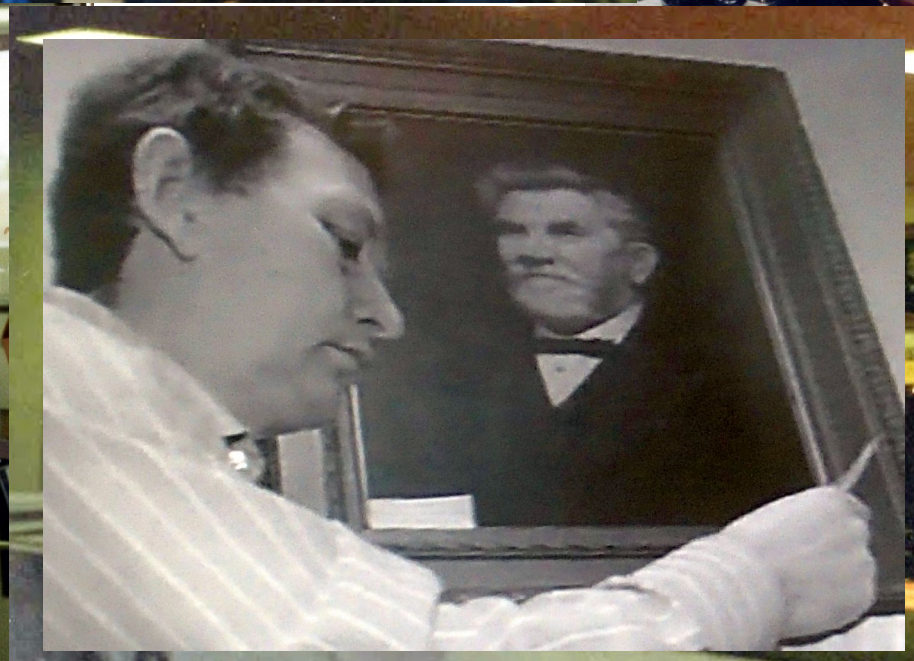


Newspapers continued to be bound to 2005 and microfilming continued to 2007.

The Collection also took cuttings from local newspapers from the 1960s to 2019

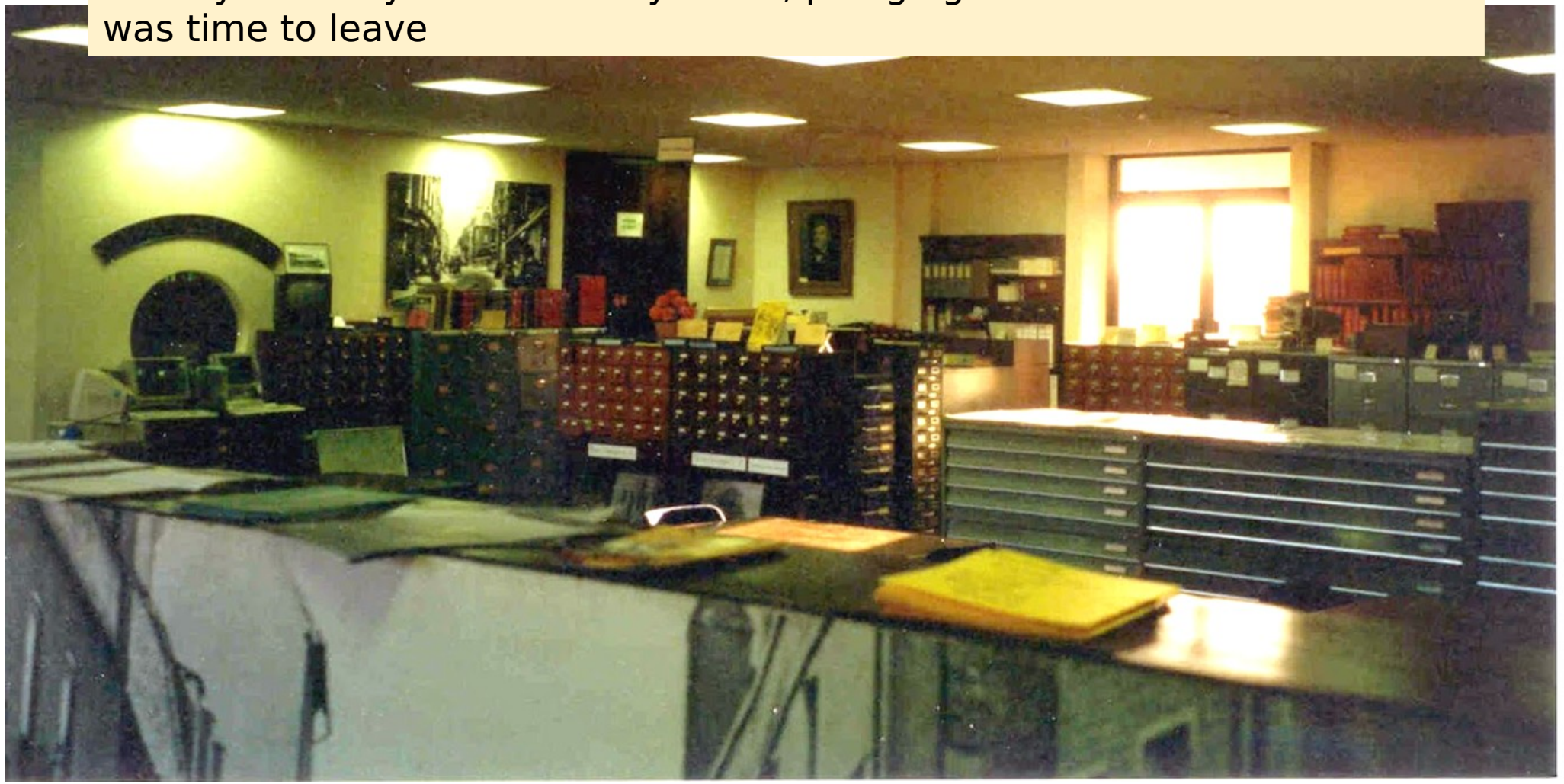
By the mid 1990s the Collection was being used by some 1,000 researchers each month. They used various detailed catalogues and

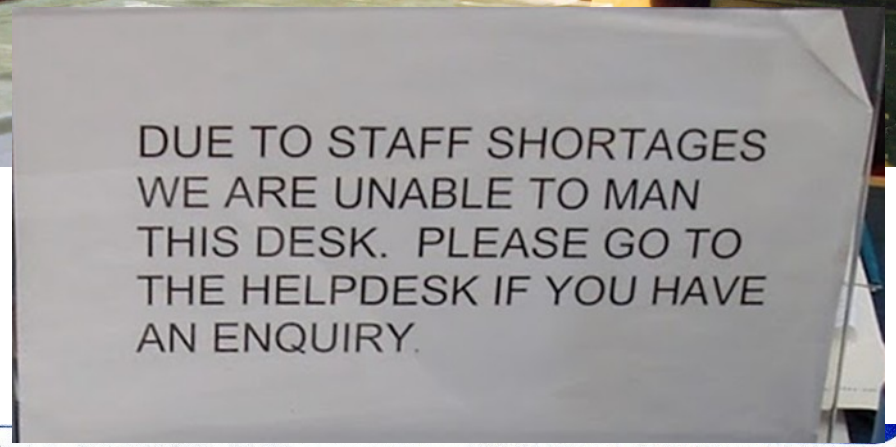
During numerous changes the Cambridgeshire Collection card catalogue of books has been discarded. The essential classified catalogue has been lost.
It has been replaced with an online version.
It survives on Microfilm



The Collection’s work was acknowledged by various awards with an MBE, an Honorary Cambridge MA and life membership of Clare Hall, on my ‘retirement’.
https://youtu.be/6PkkTceDNn0

The first thing I did on ‘retirement’ was to go back to the Collection – it is a Public Library. Part of my ‘package’ was the right to promote the Resources.
Meanwhile other changes were taking place.
On my final day the electricity failed, plunging the room into blackness. It was time to leave





My successor, Chris Jakes, took over. But by the turn of the century the Collection's staff and facilities were drastically cut during a period of mismanagement that saw the entire Central Library closed for many months. However protests have ensured that the Collection remains a part of the Cambridge Central Library though now with less accessible resources

Central library protest forces council rethink

JON VALE

A DECISION to replace part of Cambridge Central Library's third floor with an enterprise centre has been put on hold.

Protesters were successful in getting the decision reviewed after an appeal to Cambridgeshire County Council on Tuesday.

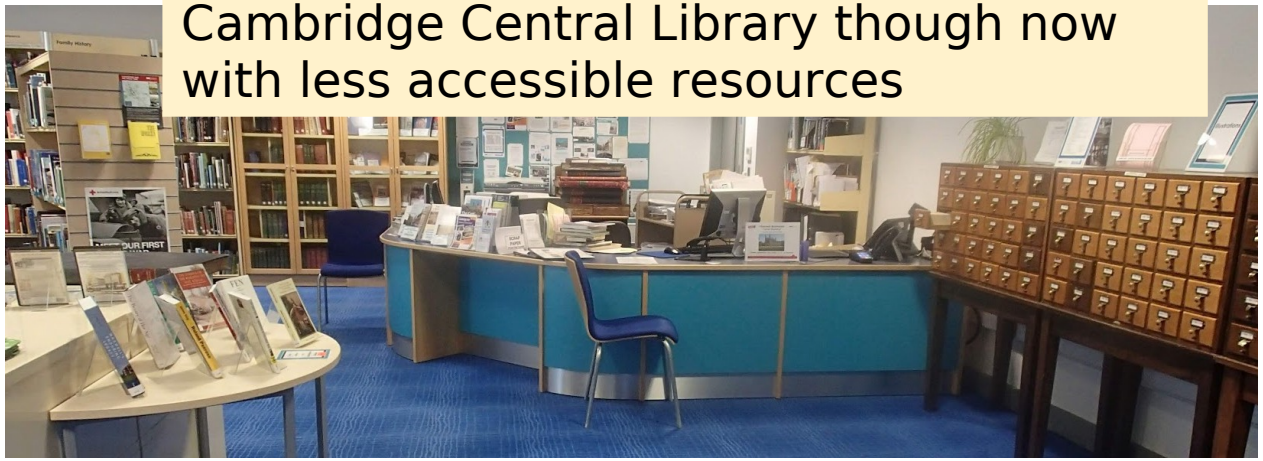
The proposals would have leased some 60 per cent of the third floor to Kora – part of the Regus group – for an enterprise centre to help the out-

HANDS OFF! More than 3,000 people signed a petition opposing changes to the library's third floor

However, a motion from committee chairman Cllr Roger Hickford means that the decision was delayed until the same committee's meeting in June.

A consultation over the future of the library service is likely to be extended past its current end of April closing date.

A petition signed by almost 3,500 people was presented to the general purposes committee on Tuesday opposing the plans, although the wording of the petition was criti-

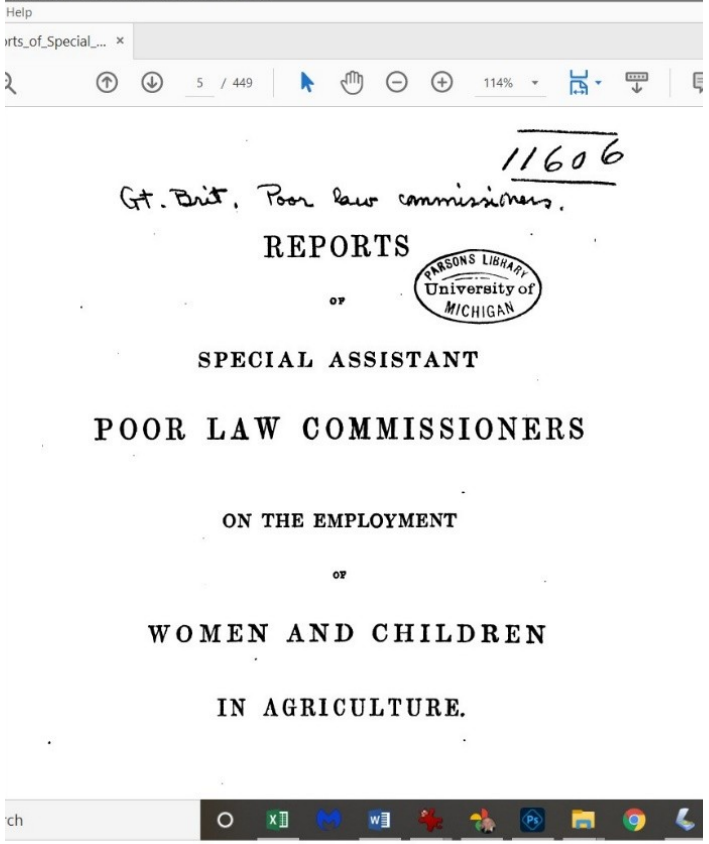


Early English Books O
English Parliamentary Pa
Eighteen-century Books Un

There are other Libraries: Cambridge University Library has been pioneering projects to digitise books, journal articles and reports

With a ‘Raven’ password I was able to discover hundreds of items not held in the Collection

Which I have downloaded to my library together with material from other sites such *as Google Books* and *Internet Archive.* These can be shared via Memory Sticks – you can carry hundreds of books in your pocket.



180
180
180
180
1809 Frost From rioting
1810 Jones Guided bus
1811 Whitely Pepys
1812 O'Connor Stretham coprolites
1813 Guillebaud From bats
1813 Newspplan titles
1815 Impington Hall sale
1816 Terence Gray
1817 Woolf A room
1818 Keynes Women's part
1819 Clark Route
1837 Holywell Parish registers
1838 Swavesey born & bred
1839 Frere Cot
1840 03 28 Ro
1840 Swavesey
1841 Swavesey
1842 Thomas
1843 Six move
1844 Over Chronicle
1845 Benwick Mill
1846 Swavesey old & new
1867 Delanoy Spooky stories
1868 Madingley
1875 Bennett Invasion
1876 Freeman album
1877 Kelly Norfolk 1922

ACTS of PARLIAMENT,

FOR

DRAINING and PRESERVING

OF SEVERAL

Fen Lands and Low Grounds,

IN THE PARISH OF

WHITTLESEY,

IN THE

AT A SESSION OF SEWARS HOLDEN AT THE CITTIE OF *ELY*, the xxij. and xxiij. dayes of *September*, *Ann. Dom.* 1619. before the Reuerend Father in God NICHOLAS, Lord Bishop of *Ely*, Sr. MILES SANDYS, Knight and Barronet, Sr. EDWARD RADCLIFFE, Sr. IOHN CVTS, Sr. SIMEON STEWARD, Sr. RICHARD COXE, Sr. WILLIAM WENDIE, Knights: IOHN GOSTLIN Doctor of Physicke, Vicechancellor of the Vniuersitie of *Cambridge*, IOHN CROPLEY, and HENRIE SMITH, Doctors of Diuinitie, IOHN POPE Doctor of Lawe, *Henrie Bing* Esquier, Mr. *Ierome Beale*, Batchelor in Diuinitie, *Daniell Wigmore* Archdeacon of *Ely*, *Robert Steward*, *Isaac Barrowe*, *Daniell Goodricke*, *Peter Franckland*, Esquiers; *Robert Clench*, *Iohn Pepis*, *Iohn Orwell*, *Simon Watson*, and *Henry Vpcher*, Gentlemen, Commissioners of *Sewars* amongst others assigned: It is ordered as followeth: viz.

WHEREAS The Kings most excellent Maiestie, by his gracious Letters, dated at *Windsore* the iiij. day of this instant moneth of *September*, directed vnto the Commissioners of Sewars in the Countie of *Cambridge*, Isle of *Ely*, *Suffolke*, *Norfolke*, *Lincolne*, *Northampton*, *Huntingdon*, &c. therein signifying, that Sr. WILLIAM AYLOFFE, Knight and Barronet, Sr. ANTHONIE THOMAS Knight, with other their friends, at their owne charge haue vndertaken the great and worthy worke, to draine the grounds surrounded with fresh or salt waters, in the seuerall Counties of *Cambridge*, the Isle of *Ely*, *Norfolke*, *Suffolke*, *Lincolne*, *Northampton*, *Huntingdon*, &c. whereby his Maiestie conceiueth, that a great and inestimable profit will arise to the Kingdome, and that the said worke will disburthen the said Counties, and the Inhabitants thereof, from the taxes and charges now continually imposed vpon them, and will reconcile, and vtterly take away all differences, and discontents heretofore arising about the leuying of such taxes: Also signifying, that the said Vndertakers haue alreadie concluded in point with his Maiestie, concerning the recompence for the draining his Maiesties lands, and the lands of the Prince his Highnes; And hath by his Maiesties said Letters, recommended the said Vndertakers, and their designes to the especiall care of all the Lords, and other Commissioners of *Sewars*, for all and euery the said Counties, requiring them to be aiding and assisting to them in the Contracts to be made with the Subiects according to Lawe; And that all persons should be respective, and conformable to that his Maiesties Royall pleasure.

AND therewithall, the right Honourable Lords, and others of his Maiesties most Honourable Priuie Counsell, for further direction and instruction, haue also directed their Honourable Letters, bearing date at *Windsore* aforesaid, the v. day of the said moneth of *September*, Wherein their Lordships for the better clearing of the said businesse, haue mentioned one cheife purpose of the said Vndertakers, That they entend to beginne their workes at the Sea, and to open the out-falls of *Neane* and *Welland*, and make them nauigable to the Townes of *Spalding* and *Wisbich*, which (their Lordships conceiued) will take away all feare of turning the waters vpon any the neighbour-Countries, and drawe the same into their true and naturall channells, without any further trouble or inconuenience.

For the readier, and more speedie execution whereof, their Lordships by their said Letters did likewise require the said Commissioners of *Sewars*, to obserue well his Maiesties said gracious, and Princely direction.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

AN ADDRESS

TO THE

PUBLIC,

DATED APRIL, 20, 1775,

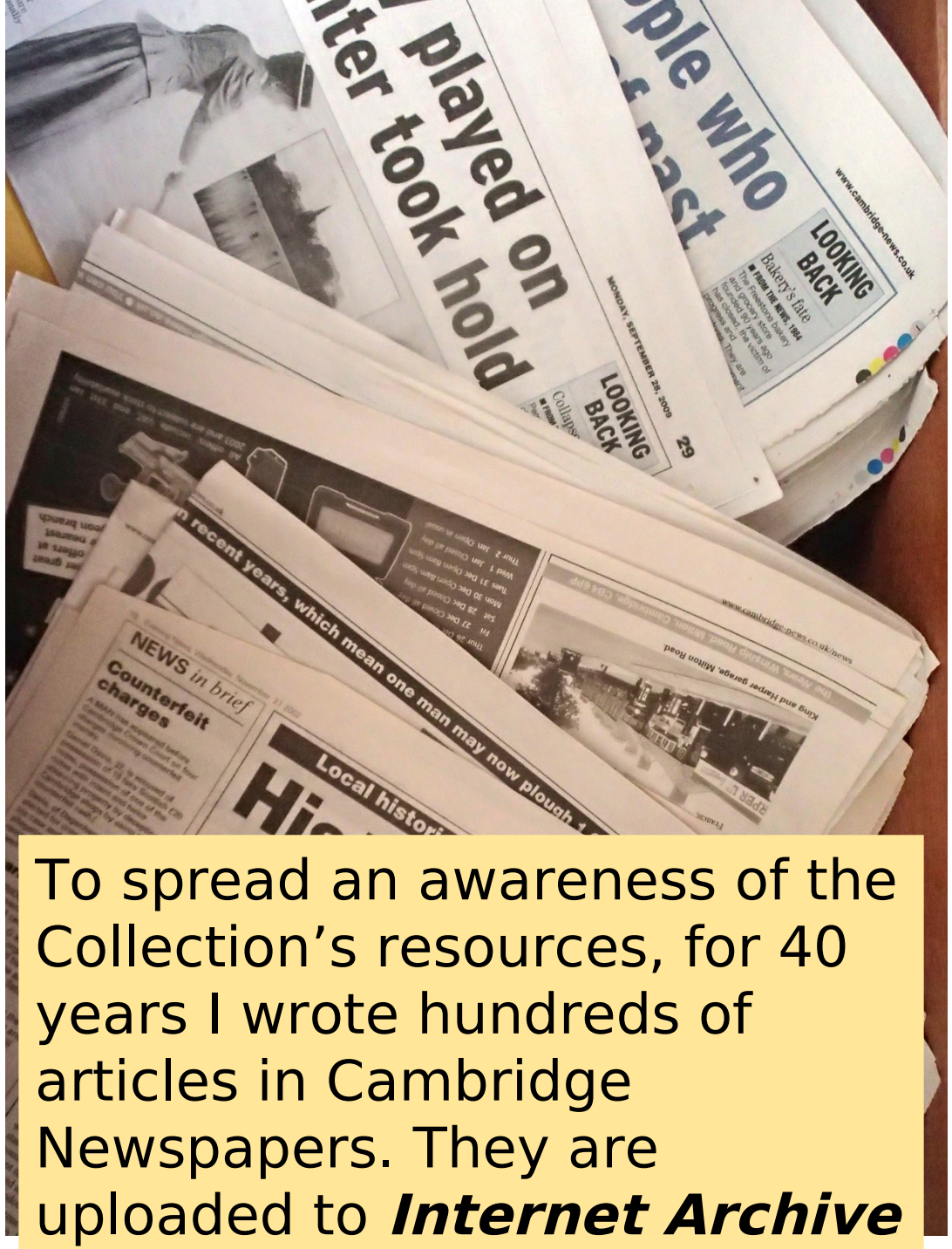
SUPERSCRIBED

BEDFORD LEVEL,

AND SIGN'D

CHARLES NALSON COLE, *Regiſter*;

Repeatedly inſerted in the Cambridge Paper;

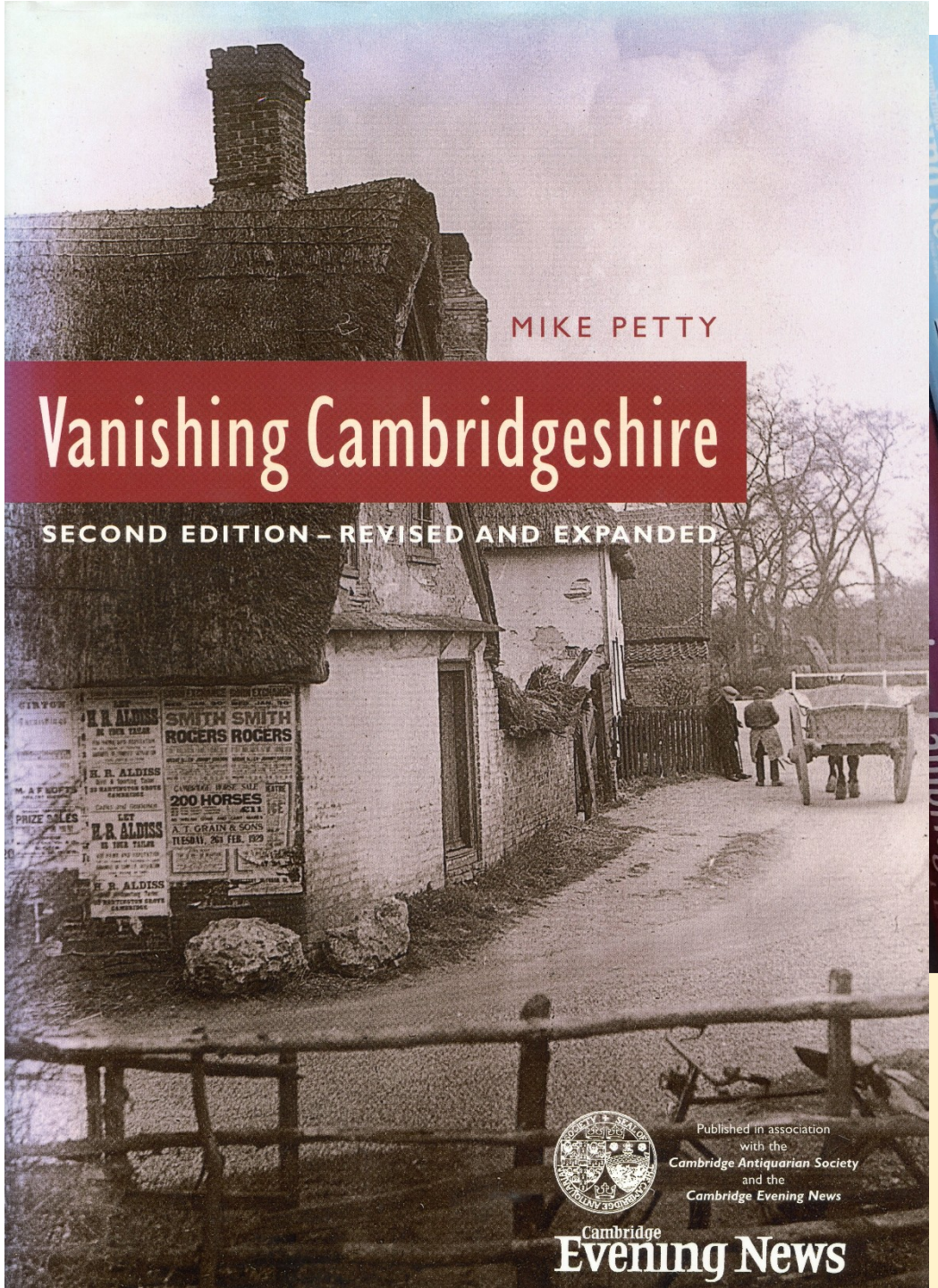


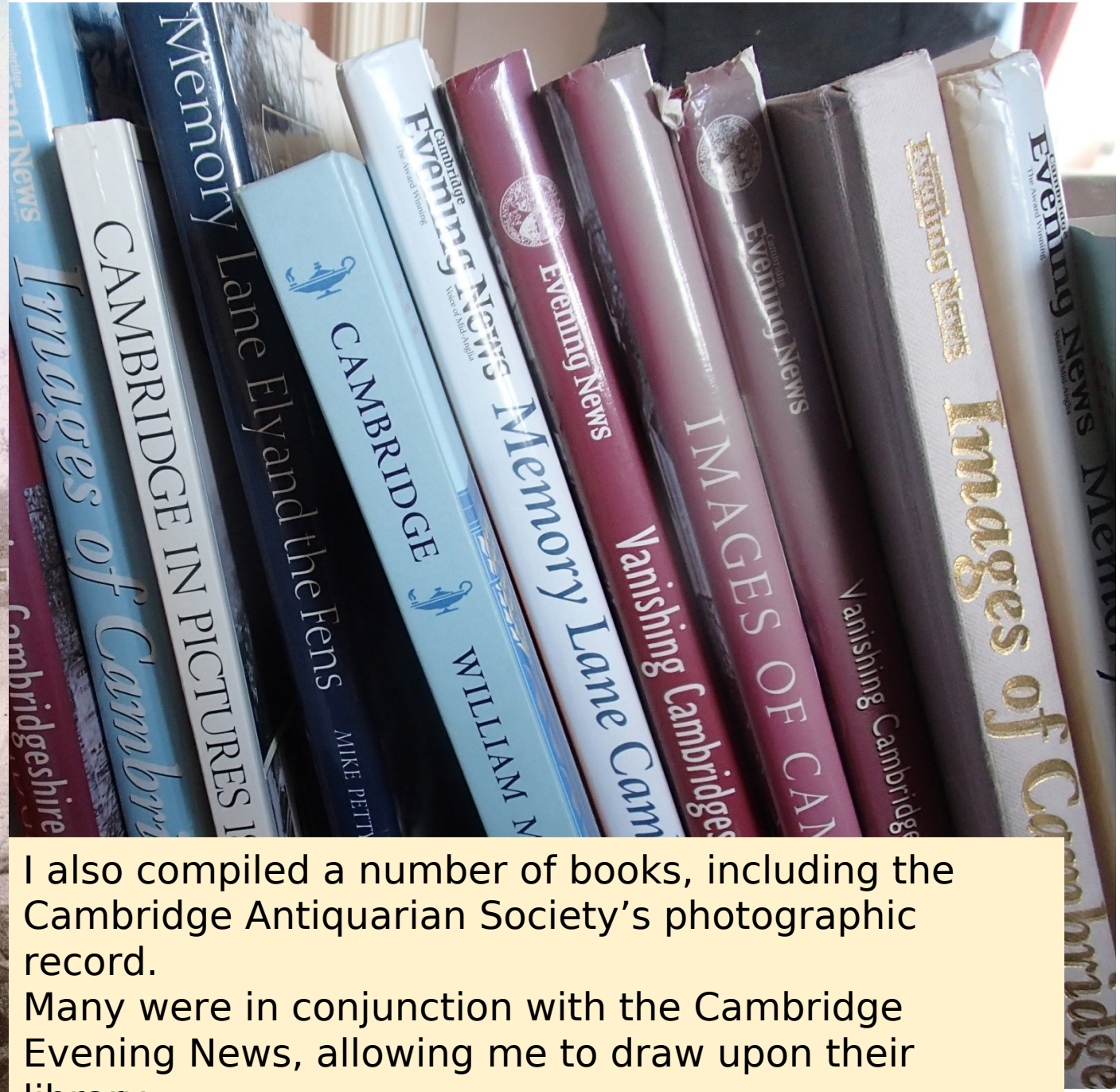
To spread an awareness of the Collection's resources, for 40 years I wrote hundreds of articles in Cambridge Newspapers. They are uploaded to ***Internet Archive***

Pickwick's Cambridge Scrapbook 1838

Public group · 8 members

Joined + Invite



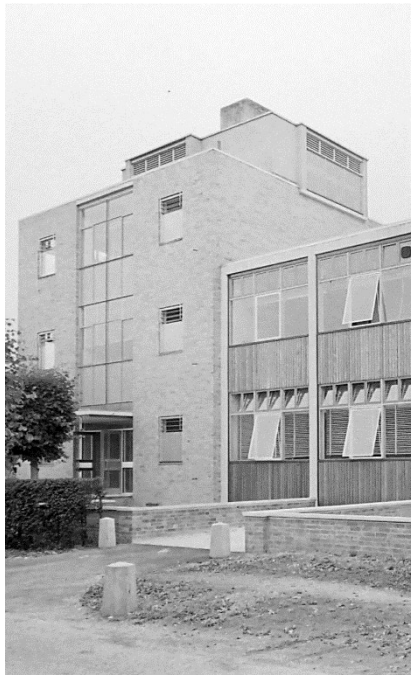


I also compiled a number of books, including the Cambridge Antiquarian Society's photographic record.
Many were in conjunction with the Cambridge Evening News, allowing me to draw upon their library

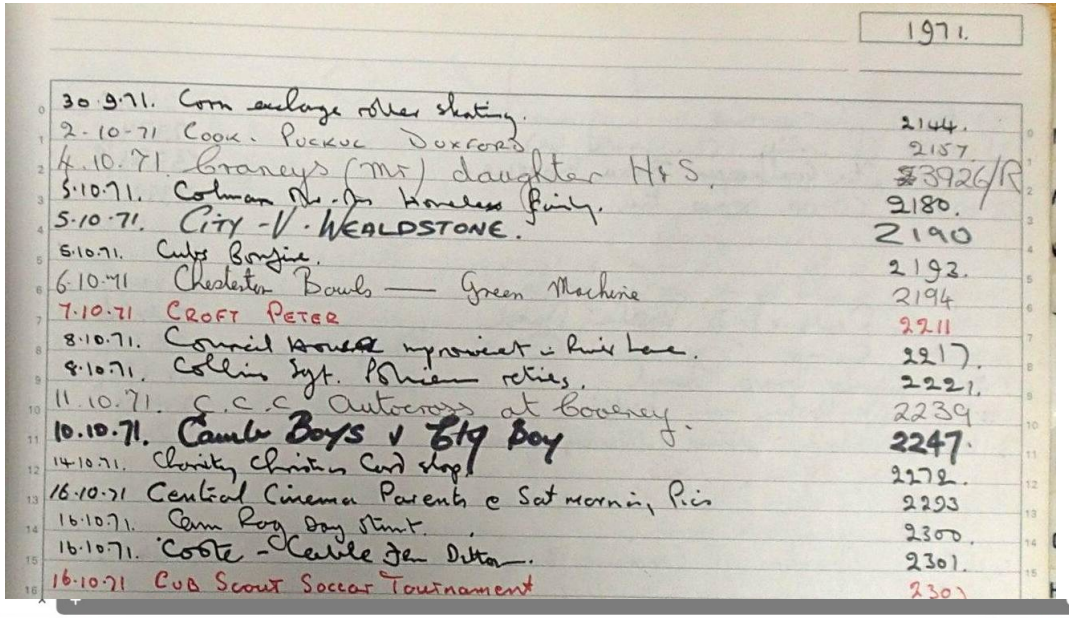
Cambridge News.

From the mid 1960’s the Cambridge News had maintained their own library to record every story that had been published in their newspaper

That library was closed down, March 2014. But I had permission to use it

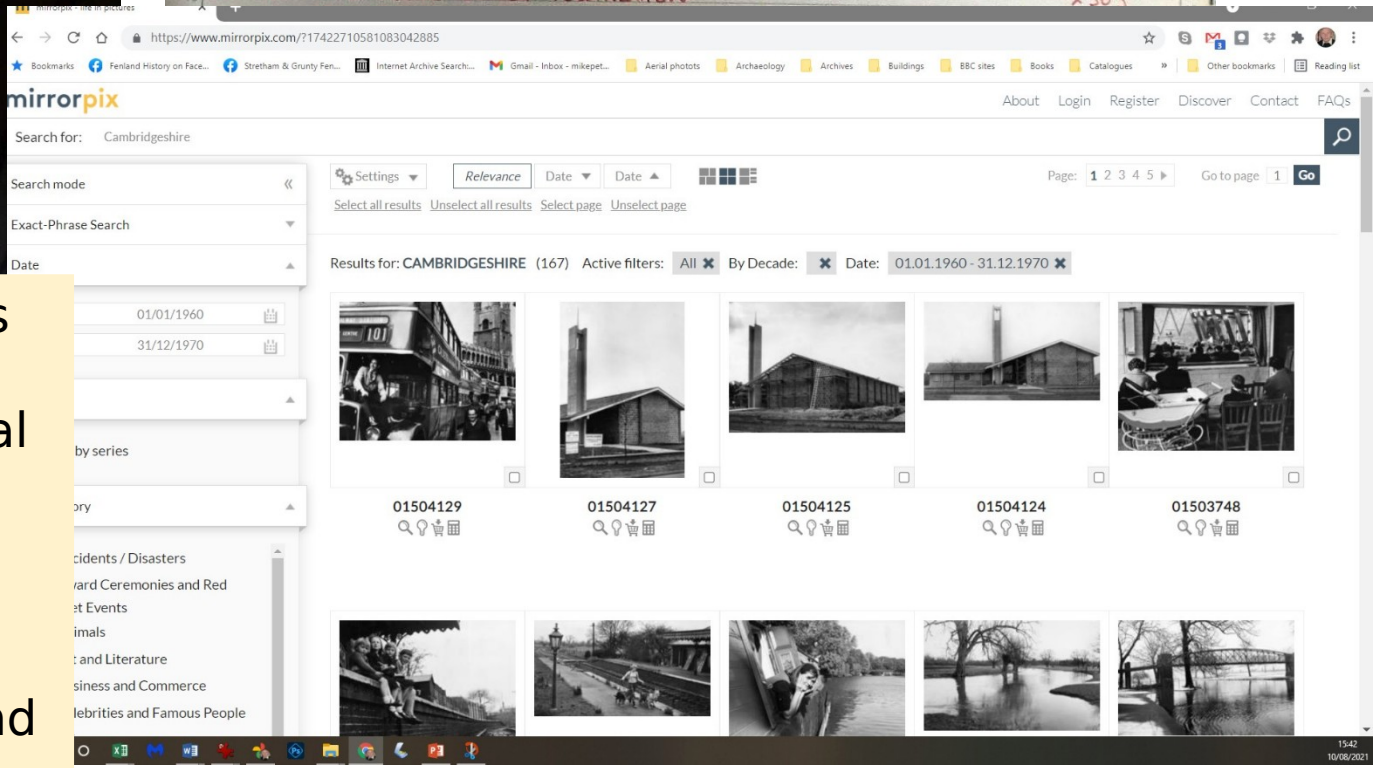


The negatives were scrapped when the Cambridge News moved from St Andrew's Street to Newmarket Road.
One or two survived together with those saved by John Carter which he bequeathed to the Collection.


1971.

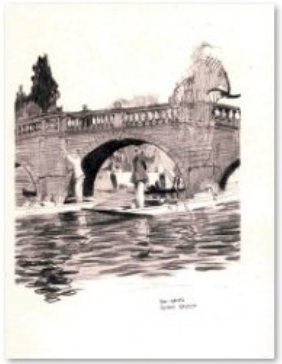
30.9.71. Corn envelope roller skating.
2.10.71 Cook. Puckuc Duxford
4.10.71 Graneys (Mr) daughter H+S.
5.10.71. Colman Ho. Jo Homeless Party.
5.10.71. City -V- WEALDSTONE.
5.10.71. Cubs Bonfire.
6.10.71 Chesterton Bowls — Green Macherie
7.10.71 CROFT PETER
8.10.71. Council House Improvement in Ruis Lane.
8.10.71. Collins Sgt. Photos retires.
11.10.71. C.C.C Autocross at Coveney.
10.10.71. Camb Boys v City Boy
14.10.71. Charity Christmas Card shop.
16.10.71 Central Cinema Parents & Sat morning Pics
16.10.71. Corn Exch Dog Stunt.
16.10.71. Coote - Carlile Jan Dutton.
16.10.71 Cub Scout Soccer Tournament

2144.
2157
3926/R
9180.
2190
2192.
2194
2211
2217.
2221.
2239
2247.
2272.
2293
2300.
2301.
2302



The News contained many thousands of prints and negatives taken by their photographers.
Many of these had been uploaded into a digital format.
They are no longer in Cambridge. They now form part of the Mirrorpix Archive. They claim to provide copies for researchers.
A search for images of Cricket has failed to find any.

Previously I worked through hundreds of folders of photographs and thousands of negatives. I took digital copies of many of these then used an image processing program to convert them to positives which I added to my files.



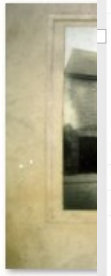
129.60

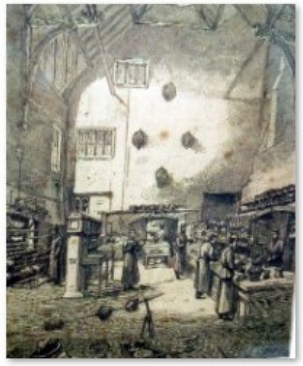
129.61

17978	Y.Sut.K64 60.365	W.22.5.K64	Cows are frequently seen being driven through Sutton's streets, News 27th November 1964 neg 3224B	3363
17979	Y.Sut.K64 60.366	WG.Sut.K64	At the Sutton Primary school, the Head, Mr A.M. Williams, watches three pupils during a tape-assisted reading lesson News 27th November 1964 neg 3320B	
17980	Y.Sut.K64 60.367	PG.Gar.K64 Q.Al.K64	At Ibbotts' Garage there is plenty of work for Mr Jack Blinch who has worked there for 30 years, and the owner Mr M.J.A. Powell. They have the only garage in this village of nearly 1,500 people News 27th November 1964 neg 3327B	
17981	Y.Sut.K64 60.368		Sutton church's unusual, tiered tower dominates the centre of the village, even on a rainy day. News 27th November 1964 neg 3219B	
17982	Y.Sut.K64 60.369	WF.Sut.K64	In Sutton there is varied employment, including Brian Painter who runs the county council library News 27th November 1964 neg 3329B	
17983	Y.Sut.K64 60.370	WO.Sut.K64	Mr F. Higham runs the Brook House, a public house well-known by travellers. News 27th November 1964 neg 3326B R "It may be of interest, the landlord was Frank Higham who as well as being the landlord ran a milk delivery round with his son Norman who also kept a pub in the High Street. The Brook House was really a travellers watering hole and as I was the village policeman it meant that I met a few interesting characters and situations from time to time!" David Carrington, Mellstock, Whitton Close, Swavesey, Cambs CB24 4RT, 26.6. 2012.	
17984	Y.Sut.K64 60.371	WIM.Sut.K64	Post Office assistant Mrs H. Painter News 27th November 1964 neg 3328B	
17985	Y.Sut.K66 247.91	WIN.Sut.K66	Derelict signal box at Sutton; CN neg 7799/D, 1966	
17986	Y.Sut.K67 59.129		The view from the church tower has changed very little over the years commented the News in June 1967 when it visited for a Village Life feature. Since then there has been significantly more development News 30th June 1967 neg 5907/E	2785
	Y.Sut.K67 59.130	WB.Sut.K67	Other residents have campaigned for improvements: Twenty people who live at The Row are threatening to withhold their rates until a long-awaited improvement is carried out to a 300-yard stretch of road outside their home. They are complaining about potholes and mud. Mrs Agnes Taylor said she had filled in one pothole outside her house three times. The County Council says a widening and resurfacing scheme began three years	

129.65

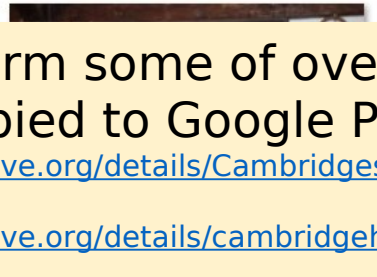
129.66

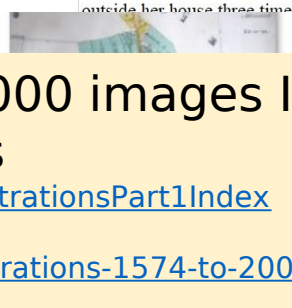


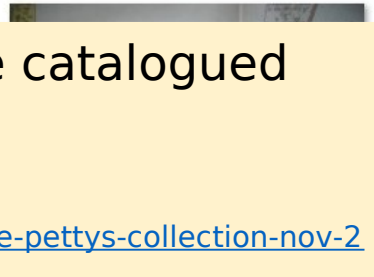


129.70

129.71







They form some of over 20,000 images I have catalogued and copied to Google Photos

https://archive.org/details/CambridgeshireIllustrationsPart1Index

https://archive.org/details/cambridgehire-illustrations-1574-to-2000-in-mike-pettys-collection-nov-2020

https://photos.app.goo.gl/JpSUwUy5cFdQJx1q9

https://photos.app.goo.gl/CVkH8YnnZnJFHvpJ6

The Cambridge News Librarians maintained thousands of cuttings files from the 1960s to the end of the century. They covered all aspects of Cambridge and its county.

Many duplicated the files maintained by the Cambridgeshire Collection. They were not needed and were scheduled to be dumped. Instead they were given to me.
I have passed them to the ***Cambridge Independent***.

The Cambridge News moved under its new owner, Reach, to a site at Landbeach.
A number of cuttings files moved with them.
When that site closed I was invited to reunite the files.
With Chris Holley and Dave Smith we moved them to an adjoining office block.
Later we went back for a few more, returning them to the Cambridge Independent.

NEWSPAPERS MAIN Apr 2016 Woc › CamCutts › Floods General 1968 Oct-Derc

Search Floods Gener...

Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (56)

Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (57)

Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (58)

Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (59)

Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (60)

Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (61)

Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (62)

Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (63)

Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (64)

Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (65)

Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (66)

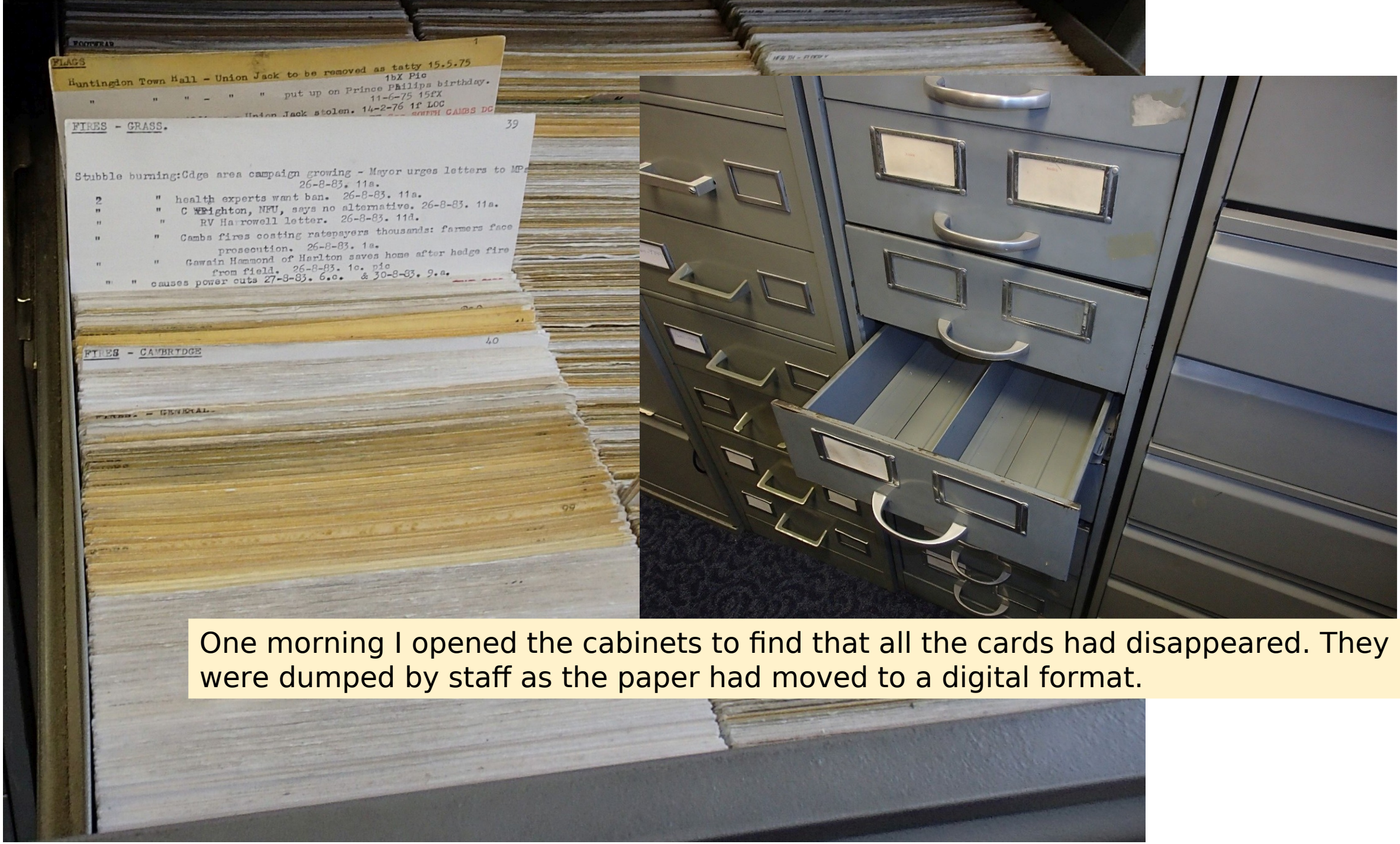
Floods Genera

General 1968 Oct-Dec (70)

I have however copied 30 of the files of cuttings to ***Google Photos*** including Rivers, Fenland, Floods and Communities around Ely

09:28
14/10/2021

The Cambridge News Librarians also built-up detailed card indexes recording everything published in their paper. These were housed in filing cabinets



One morning I opened the cabinets to find that all the cards had disappeared. They were dumped by staff as the paper had moved to a digital format.

Fortunately I had copied a few of the indexes including Stretham and the villages around Ely

28-8-75 7a

Cricket & football pitches overlap. 3-9-75 5g LOC

Berry Close - insurance given for play area. 4-9-75 11e LOC

Aerial Pic. 3-10-75 17e X Mp 1220

Bury Close to Ely Rd, footpath to be partly made up. 9-10-75 10g N

Wilburton Rd - Par Cl to ask for pedestrian crossing. 5-11-75 11g N

Cricket club to be charged £2 for hiring playing field. 6-11-75 12f N

Parish rate raised by 19%. 6-11-75 13b N

Top St - E. Cambs DC to pay extra - increased costs of electric heating
10-12-75 10d N

Pic of Engine house in dying sun 13.12.75 5 Pic

Ferry Bridge - plg permn refused for boat moorings & slip way. 19-1-76
9e (8e N)

Green End - plan for 20 hses meets w four objections. 20-1-76 11e N

Top St - premises of Routledge & Goad Ltd plan for two grain silos gran
20-1-76 10e N

Green End Rd - 2 separate plans - cl want integrated scheme 20.2.76

High St residents upset by noise by scooter boys 13.1.72. 18.

Estate of 42 houses may still be built in village - but plans d
20.1.72. 11.b.

Annual parish mtg to be held March 20th 2.2.72. 17.a.X

Baptist Church upset by noise made by vehicles using depot 3.2.
" " Director replies to crits 4-2-72. 23.d. (22d X) 11aX

L. A. Jackson lose appeal to extend engineering depot in villag
11.3.72. 9.b.

Housing to be deferred until village plan published 19.4.72.

Play area may be included in plan for new school 22.4.72. 11
County planning team to visit village for work on village pl
22.4.72. 11.a.X

Feat Sundat at Stretham 22.5.72. 13bX

When you buy your copies of Cambridgeshire Newspapers you receive the latest edition.

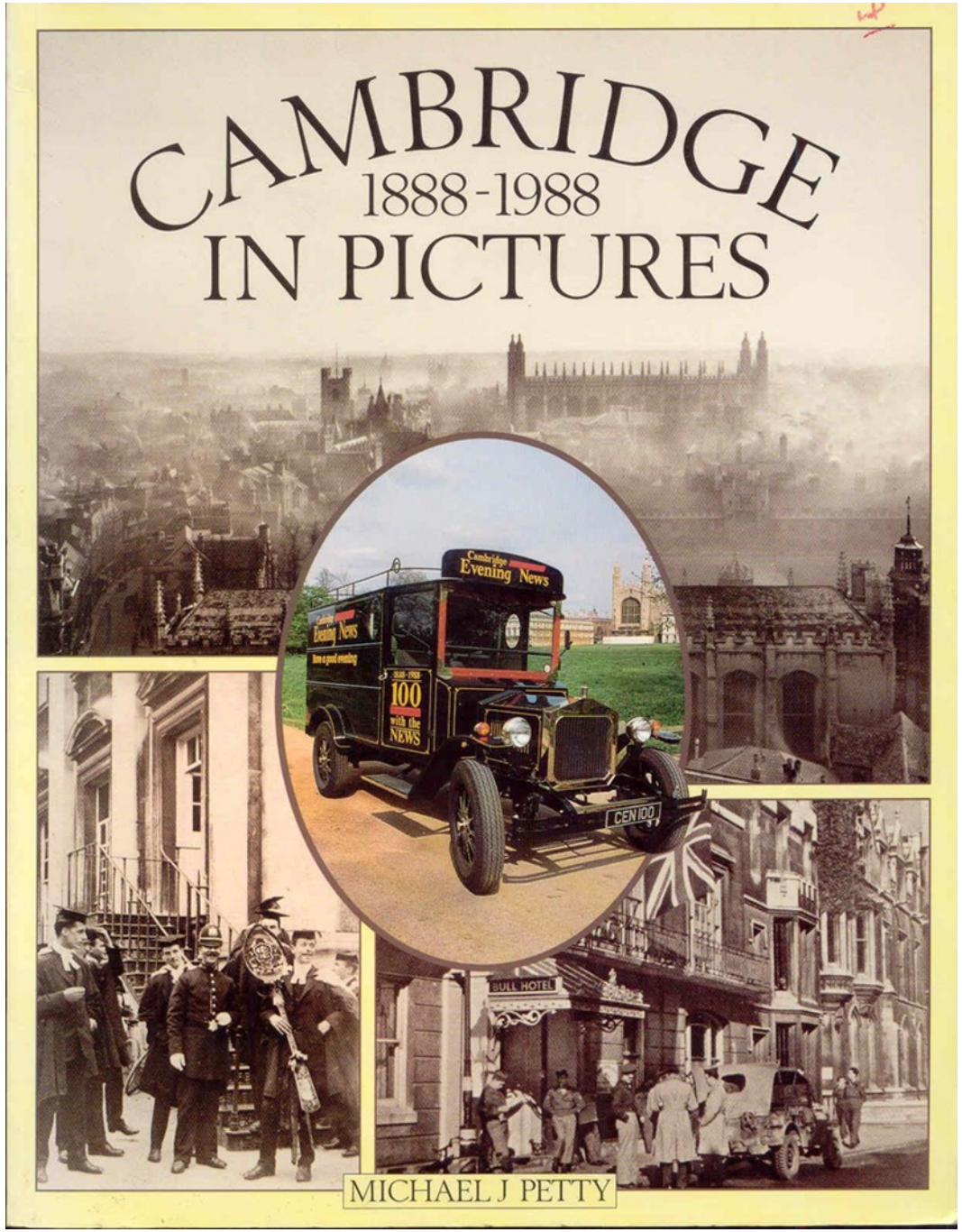
However if you subscribe your subscription also covers earlier files of the paper.

One can search information on thousands of topics.

One cannot however structure that topic.

Both papers also publish online editions.

I have received copies from the ***Cambridge News***, not the ***Cambridge Independent.***



In 1988 I compiled a history of the Cambridge News

At the same time I surveyed many of the stories they had covered, using the files maintained by the Collection to produce ***'A Century of Cambridge News'***

Subsequently for over 20 years I read through the papers to compile a daily *Looking Back* column in the Cambridge News recording some of the interesting stories published 25, 50, 75 and 100 years before

22 | May 12, 2014 | cambridge-news.co.uk | Cambridge News

LOOKING BACK

By MIKE PETTY

Tourists spending £165m in city

» FROM THE NEWS 1989

Tourists contributed £165 million to Cambridge's economy last year but just £157,000 was spent on welcoming them.

The council cash went on running the tourism office in Wheeler Street, which has 12 full-time staff and another dozen workers in the summer.

The colleges are a major attraction but university life would be seriously disrupted if they were allowed to roam uncontrolled. Most colleges close during exams but are anxious not to close their gates unnecessarily.

Remembering Wembley days

» FROM THE NEWS 1964

Memories will flood back to Girton man, Vic Watson, when his old team West Ham play in a Wembley Cup Final.

The last time they were there was in 1923 and Vic, then 25, was leading the attack as centre-forward. They lost 2-0 to Bolton in a game that became known as the 'White Horse Final'.

Vic was with the club for 16 years and won seven England caps. After retirement he became club coach at Cambridge Town for nearly 20 years until they turned professional.

'Press must be true and faithful'

» FROM THE NEWS 1939

If war came some kind of press censorship would be

Local landmarks were far from run of the mill

Memories

By MIKE PETTY

LAST weekend, windmill enthusiasts celebrated the remaining examples of the structures which have been so important a feature of the landscape for centuries.

Inevitably many have now gone: "Windmills are disappearing so fast that in many parts of the country they are a forgotten race. Some day antiquarians will be examining and digging in mounds, having quite forgotten that they were the mounds of old windmills made to raise them a little above the surrounding land," Henry Hughes told members of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society in November 1928.

Together with JH Bullock and Rex Wailes he set about making a record of the windmills existing throughout Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely. It was not an encouraging task for such enthusiasts. They found the oldest mill at Bourn had been out of commission for six years, its sails having been smashed in a gale in 1925, finishing its working life. But fears it would be lost were dispelled when it was acquired by the Cambridge Preservation Society who have continued to care for it.

In Cambridge the windmill that had given Mill Road its name had long gone and the mill at Long Road Trumpington had also disappeared. Miss Moore, the daughter of the last miller, told them it had been built in 1812 and stopped working in the spring of 1887. Photographer RL Lord snapped it in its prime. But French's Mill off Victoria Road was still standing (without

it was replaced in 1935 by a post mill from Ellington which Ambrose Harding the Squire of Madingley had moved plank by plank to its present site. Such restoration was expensive and needed specialist skills such as that of the Soham firm of Hunts millwrights whose work was photographed by the antiquarians.

In 1932 Philippa Burrell bought a cottage, granary and 20 acres of land together with the windmill at West Wratting for £600. High and isolated, she found it a little paradise – and promptly left to study in Paris! She returned in 1934 when she wrote plays and learned about planting and pruning. All the while the windmill was watching her with its broken sails, cap all out, windows rotten and rain going in. It was an

see the mill, sitting contentedly on rustic tables in the orchard. After two seasons however she closed the business as the mill was restored. It was not the end of the story: she wrote a play, *The Wind and the Mill*, which was performed by the Festival Theatre Company in the fields around the windmill in June 1935.

As well as corn mills, drainage mills were once a very familiar sight in the fens, and the Cambridge Antiquarians took a picture of a group of small mills near Isleham in 1914. There was a large mill at Soham mere, belonging to the Cambridgeshire County Council with the old type of tail beam and old types of sail. "Long may they be preserved by the bodies that own them," Hughes exhorted.

Sadly it was not to be. By 1947 the

later another drainage mill, much younger, much less impressive and in a much worse state, was re-built and erected just next door at Wicken Fen, where it is lauded as the last of the fenland wind drainage mills.

The photographs taken by the

SAILING AWAY: Above left, Madingley windmill painted by William Matthison c1907. Top: French's Mill, Victoria Road with sails, 1912. Above: Mill in Long Road Trumpington, photographed by R.H. Lord c1880.

These stories have been brought together in one 4,000-page chronological ***Cambridgeshire Scrapbook.***

It records thousands of otherwise forgotten facts from the period 1897-1990.
It can be searched by name and place

reported in Cambridge Newspapers

Summaries of Stories and Copies of Articles

compiled by Mike Petty.
Revised Jan 2021.

https://archive.org/details/a-cambridgeshire-scrapbook-1897-1990-by-mike-petty.-july-2020

men as result of the Big Push, which have arrived at the First Eastern Hospital—as many as 460 reached Cambridge in two days— and a number of medical officers have left the hospital for service at a daughter hospital in Egypt 16 07 12 CIP

1916 07 19
100th ambulance train arrives – 16 07 19a

Cambridgeshire men who have fought and fell: photos of: Swift, Ingle, Hatterseley, Pryor, Bendall, Willis, Marsh, Dockerill, Rose, Johnson, Newman, Pearman, Richmond, Huyler, Renshaw, Goody, Stearn, Ellis, Chapman, Robinson, Barber, White, Benstead, Richmond, Ellis, Cousins, Lack, Smart, Monk, Foreman, King, Gifford – 16 07 19c [note: there are a series of photographs of casualties; I have listed names on the Cambridge Chronicle 1916 indexes]

Tribunal includes Gas Company; H.J. Gray men on war work 16 07 19b

Another Heavy List Of Casualties. Many additional casualties - the price which must be paid for all great victories - among Cambs. men at the Front, has come to hand during the past week. Mingled, however, with the expression of deep sympathy with the relatives of those who have fallen and the earnest hope for the recovery of the wounded, is a feeling of great pride in our gallant county lads and their valiant conduct in the Great Push. Fearlessly "and in a storm of shell, rifle bullets and machine gun bullets" to use the words of one of them - the lads of Cambridgeshire leaped out of their trenches when the word was given in the early hours of the morning of July 1. Many fell, but "most of the boys got there "and gloriously did they acquit themselves. Town and county have cause to be proud of the part played by their sons on this memorable July morning. And before then, too, and since. In addition to the local casualties published last week, further casualties include five killed in action (including Capt. the. Hon. Roland E. Phillips, Royal Fusiliers, only surviving son 0f Lord St. Davids), six died of wounds, one missing believed killed, four missing, including Capt. G. W. Deighton, son of Dr. Deighton, of Hills Road, Cambridge and over 40 wounded. CIP

https://archive.org/details/a-cambridgeshire-scrapbook-1897-1990-by-mike-petty.-july-2020

(85) Fenland History... | Internet Archive Sea... | Google Search Engi... | Gmail

Cambridgeshire Traction Engines Scrapbook 1897 To 1990

by Mike Petty

200 0 0

Century Of Cambridge News, August 2015

by Mike Petty

372 1 1

Chatteris Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

by Mike Petty

606 0 0

Horseheath Scrapbook 1897 To 1990

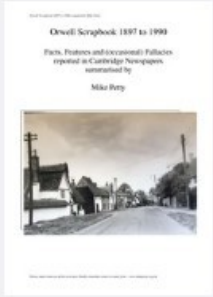
by Mike Petty

149 0 0

Litlington Scrapbook 1897 To 1990

by Mike Petty

204 0 0



Orwell Scrapbook 1897 To 1990

by Mike Petty

160 0 1

There are over 400 ‘Mini-scrapbooks’ on villages and topics

Shepreth Scrapbook 1897 To 1990

by Mike Petty

St Ives Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

by Mike Petty

Swavesey Newspapert Articles 1900 1943 by C.R. Vincent

by Mike Petty

A compendium of cuttings relating to
Cambridge, Ely, Huntingdon, Newmarket, Royston
and the surrounding villages

Thousands of Fascinating Snippets of Cambridgeshire Life
featured in my Cambridge News
'Looking Back' columns

complete Cambridgeshire Scrapbook is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

www.cambridgeshirehistory.com/MikePetty
mikapetty1 3a@gmail.com
bit.ly/CambsCollection

01353 648106

by Mike Petty | by Mike Petty | by Mike Petty

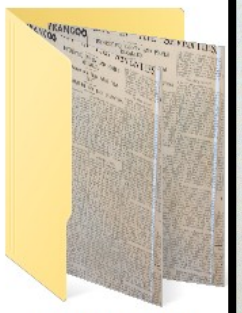
Subsequently other stories published in the Ely Standard and Cambridgeshire Times have been added to the files

Ely Standard 1924 GP

Ely Standard 1925

Ely Standard 1928

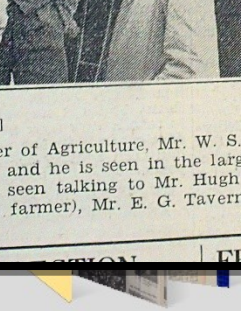
Ely Standard 1929

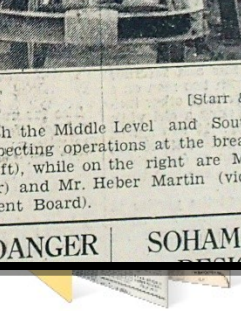

Ely Standard 1930

Ely Standard 1933

Ely Standard 1934

Ely Standard 1935


Ely Standard 1937


Ely Standard 1938

Ely Standard 1939

FRIDAY, The Cambridgeshire Times APRIL 2, 1937.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE VISITS FEN FLOODS.

[Starr & Rignall, Ely

Photos]

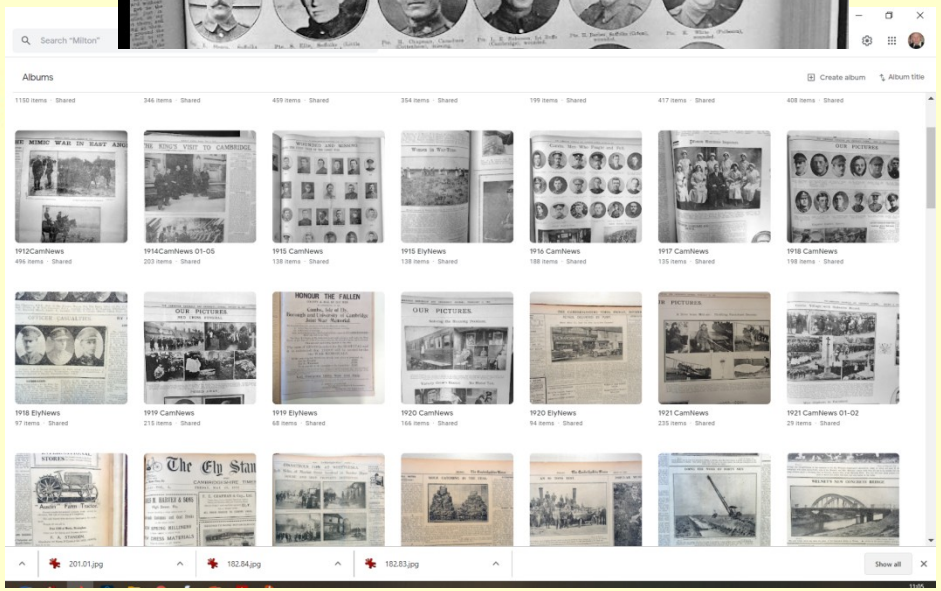
The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. W. S. Morrison, visited both the Middle Level and South Level areas on Wednesday, and he is seen in the large picture above inspecting operations at the breach at Soham Lode. Inset he is seen talking to Mr. Hugh Markham (on the left), while on the right are Mr. Hugh Smith (a veteran fen farmer), Mr. E. G. Taverner (District Engineer) and Mr. Heber Martin (vice-chairman of the Great Ouse Catchment Board).

FEN FLOOD DANGER | SOHAM PASTOR'S

Many entries are followed by a date code, YY-MM-DD.
There are copies of hundreds of the actual articles in files on Google Photos.

Cambridge Newspapers copied on Google Photos

1905-07 https://photos.app.goo.gl/gQeTRHFZ5bLcPBRq9
1910-13 https://photos.app.goo.gl/VG35idug3JLiuoNS7
1915 https://photos.app.goo.gl/kU75VKExfcgXvmSM9
1916 https://photos.app.goo.gl/zbvEA51wNdUuReJe6
1917 https://photos.app.goo.gl/N8hG7b8mtdLEnQqq9
1918 https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZJPqce6g6XsXcU7C8
1919 https://photos.app.goo.gl/5d5etstfNGhgSCUD9
1920 https://photos.app.goo.gl/wYx1hs7pEdKgJDES6
1930-39 https://photos.app.goo.gl/HdHm2pPD3WQ4uop57
1940 https://photos.app.goo.gl/NWAGudgZQxvVQ8oZA
1941 https://photos.app.goo.gl/j3v641j2fDYzA9Mu6
1942 https://photos.app.goo.gl/XeytJ1bxZzQhDBGL7
1943 https://photos.app.goo.gl/6ABpSgP4V8C5fhQYA
1944 https://photos.app.goo.gl/QKiE9AMnS66eckncA
1945 https://photos.app.goo.gl/Bkqzr3Eqt6jr4FZm6
1946 https://photos.app.goo.gl/ktmNPr5nhnKdkDGw9
1955-59 https://photos.app.goo.gl/KT4m35GrCKwRgaCG9
1960-64 https://photos.app.goo.gl/QBFPQG84j1F27Jko8
1965 https://photos.app.goo.gl/ARd6N1D4nkvs4msz8
1966 https://photos.app.goo.gl/eGRuMZJJdwW5foQr7
1967 https://photos.app.goo.gl/kNDhXKMpaxpmaf5s9
1968 https://photos.app.goo.gl/hFQWuG3eFvjLfq7W9
1969 https://photos.app.goo.gl/xWYfKYZ4DJgoRpWTA
1970 https://photos.app.goo.gl/jaDdF4b4HJnQ3Qn77
1971 https://photos.app.goo.gl/2ssMjDkJCkp5KZP4A
1972 https://photos.app.goo.gl/iPAh76skczQ8j1xE9
1980-89 https://photos.app.goo.gl/GJt5f8x4S2c3Rk9a8
1990 https://photos.app.goo.gl/YfJdJ6u15irw9aeb9



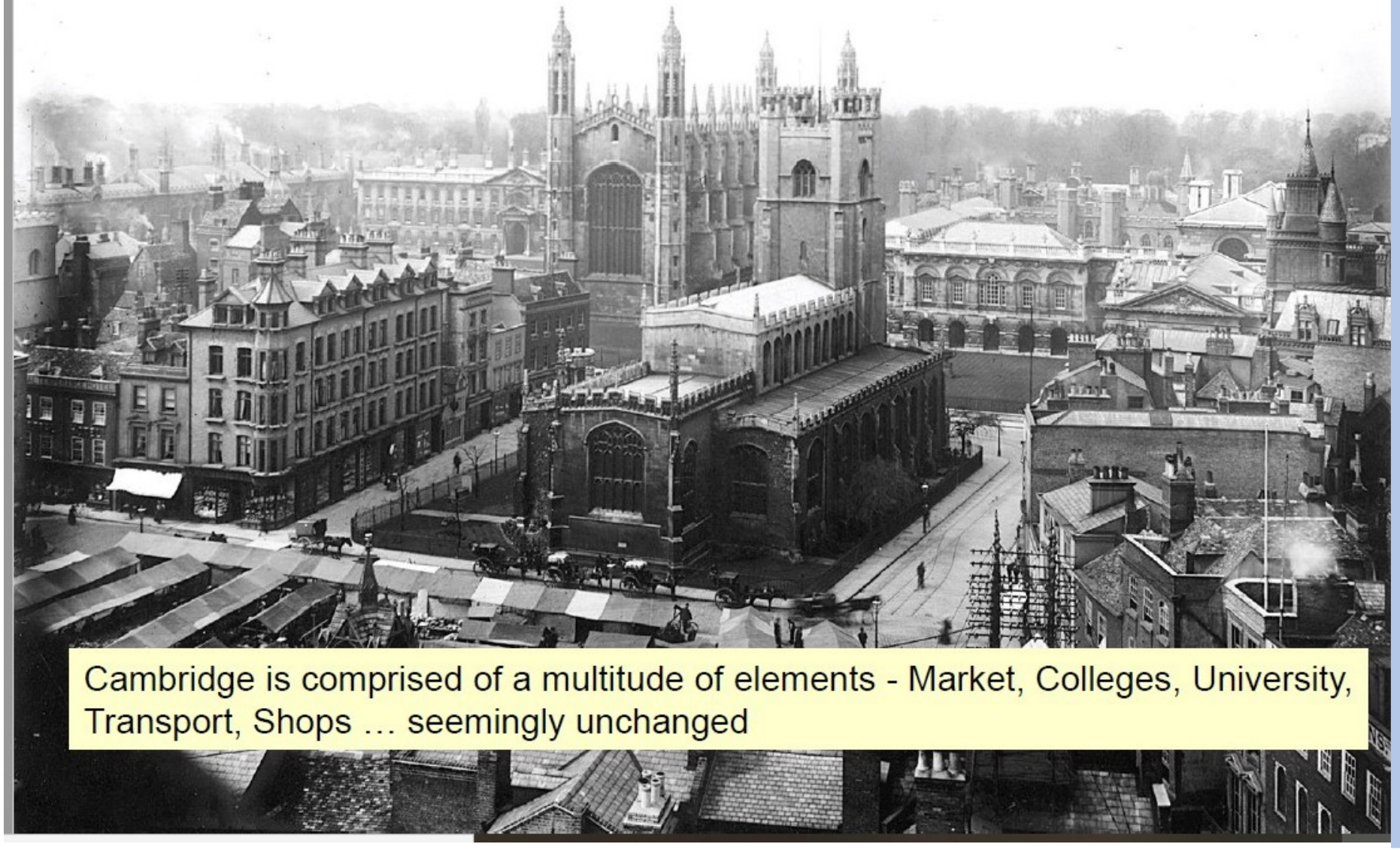
When compiling the ‘Cambridgeshire Scrapbook’ I took digital copies of thousands of the original articles as published in the paper from 1905.

These are online on ***Google Photos***.

You can click through stories appearing throughout the two World Wars as well as the depression of the 1930s, the

Mike Petty

Cambridge: a Chronicle 1888-1990



Cambridge is comprised of a multitude of elements - Market, Colleges, University, Transport, Shops … seemingly unchanged

Cambridge 1888-1990: a Chronicle of an English University City is a 4,000-page record of 100 aspects of Cambridge.
It cover topics such as planning, transport, war, women, health etc. etc.

https://archive.org/details/cambridge-1888-1990-a-chronicle.-2021

With the help of the Cambridgeshire Collection

You can trace the story of Fitzroy Street in the 1930s

You can trace the story of Campkin Road in the 1960s

You cannot trace the story of Marleigh – nobody is making newspaper

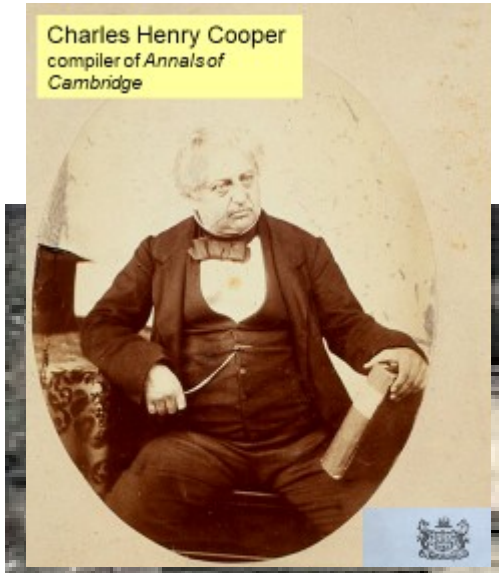
Something for future historians to work out

Charles Henry Cooper, Town Clerk of Cambridge, published a series of '***Annals of Cambridge***' recording events in Cambridge from the earliest times to 1857. These volumes have been published online with an index to contents.

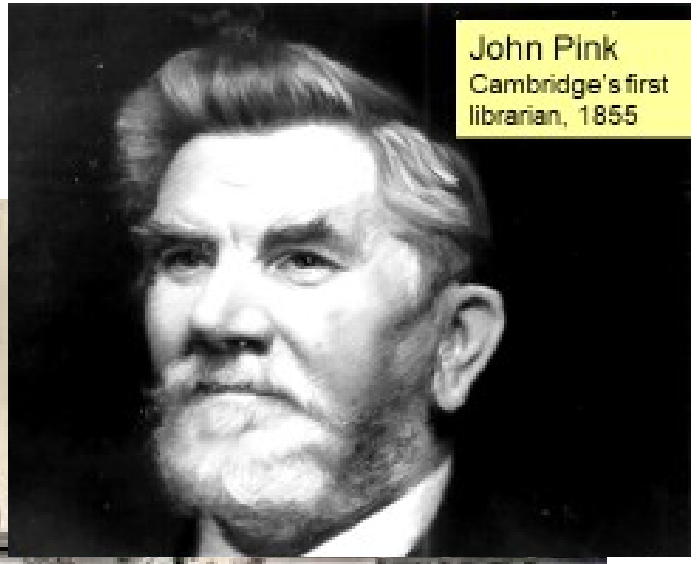
In 2018 I published a ***'Cambridge 1888 to 1988: a Chronicle of an English University City***

Annals of Cambridge 1857 to 1887 is an attempt to bring the two together. It does not cover University history.

To compile it I have worked through files of the Cambridge Chronicle and Cambridge Independent Press.
https://archive.org/details/annals-of-cambridge-1857-1887-by-mike-petty.-2023./mode/2up https://archive.org/details/annalsofcambridg01coopuoft https://archive.org/details/annalsofcambridg02coop https://archive.org/details/annalsofcambridg03coopuoft https://archive.org/details/annalsofcambridg04coop https://archive.org/details/annalsofcambridg05coopuoft



These reflects the ethos of the founders of the Cambridgeshire Collection: to record all aspects of local life and to share it freely with all.



For thirteen years weekly ‘Fenland History on Friday’ meetings heard presentations from fenmen to academics with visits to the Collection and other areas of Cambridgeshire

For more than 50 years I have shared an awareness of the Cambridgeshire Collection, travelling to virtually every parish and speaking to four groups a week. I have spoken to the Worker's Education Association, University Board of Education and International Summer Schools – including the Italian Library Association - and learned from them.

AXE MAN: Why was historian Mike Petty wielding an ancient axe over a red ribbon at the new Ely Gaol Museum? Dignitaries, including Ely Museum Society chairman Michael Young, East Cambridgeshire District Council chairman James Fitch and Ely's mayor and mayoress John and Sheila Willison, were put in the picture on Saturday. You can find out by turning to Page 2.

I have spoken to all Cambridgeshire Museum, including Ely, which I opened, one of a number the City has had. But the expert was Reg Holmes, a Railwayman, who collection has been continued by Pam Blakeman.

Ely

Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network

contact us

home about categories featured contribute

A member of the Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network

J.A. Gardiner Ltd. 3 High Street

Featured pa

Welcome

Pymoor

Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network

home about categories contribute

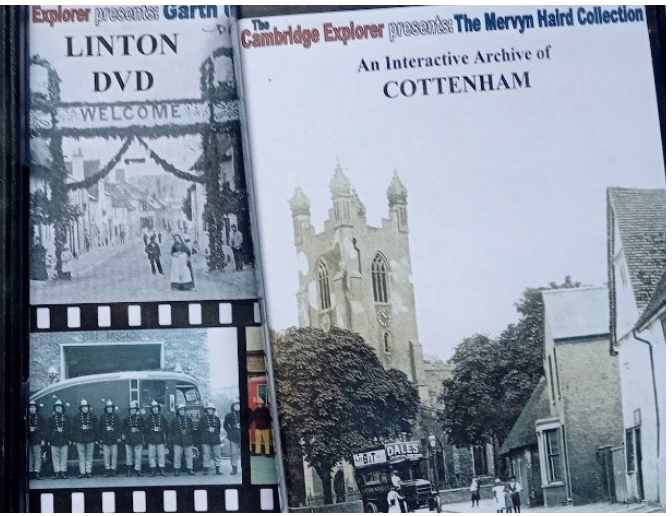
A member of the Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network

Barker's Garage, Main Street, Pymoor, circa 1920.

Welcome to Pymoor

Ely and Pymoor are two of the Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network. Others, including Stretham, have disappeared from the site.

Hugo Brown, from Wilburton, has produced DVDs featuring collections from other local historians.



BBC Local Radio

Radio Cambridgeshire

medium 1026kHz/292m, 1449kHz/207m
VHF 96MHz Stereo
BROADCASTING HOUSE, HILLS ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE CB2 1LD
PHONE CAMBRIDGE 315970, PHONE-INS 315444
PETERBOROUGH 312832

Don Smith

Librarian Mike Petty reminisces on the growth of photography in Cambridgeshire: Mon 12 noon

SATURDAY

LEEDS UNITED and BRISTOL CITY v PETERBOROUGH UNITED.

12.3 pm Soundings
A Way of Living
PAUL COBLEY visits the Papworth Village Settlement, founded in 1916 for the rehabilitation of TB patients, and now catering for people with a full range of physical disabilities.

12.25* Programme news

12.30 Westminster at Work

1.0 pm-5.0 am
as Radio 2 (page 34)

WEEKDAYS

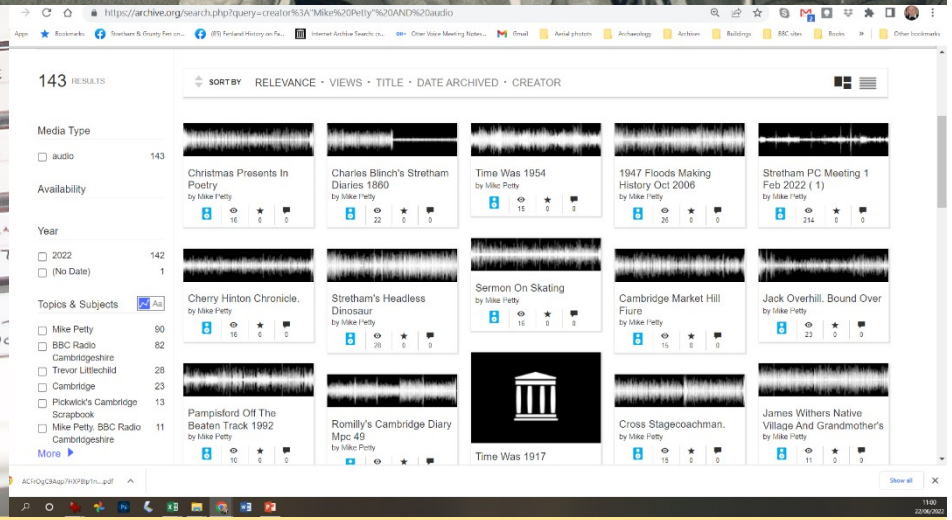
News at 7.0 am, 7.30, 8.0, 8.30, 9.0, 12.0, 1.0 pm, 4.0, 4.30, 5.0, 5.30 and 5.58
Presented by FRANCES ALLAN, IAN CAMERON, LES WOODLAND, DAVID CAMPBELL, RITA JOHNSON, EVE TURNER, EVA SIMMONS, PENNY HATCHICK, HELEN FITZWILLIAM, VIRGINIA CROCKER, ANNE BRISTOW and JANE SOLOMONS

5.0 am
as Radio 2

6.45 New Day
with JULIA BOOTH
Local news, travel, weather and sport; what's on television and in the papers; interviews and music.
Behind the news: a topical discussion, a county visit or a special guest.
Monday and Friday
At 9.15 *Arts Round-up*

10.0
as Radio 2

12.0 Midday
Call GINA MADGETT on Cambridge 315444 or Peterborough 312832 for the countywide *Dial-a-Dedication* service, *The Careline, Swap Shop* or just to have a chat.
Local guests, visiting celebrities, competitions, some midday memories



There were scores of ***Radio Cambridgeshire*** broadcasts including ***Cambridgeshire Echoes***, ***Time Was*** and a number of ***'Off The Beaten Track'.*** These can now be heard to on any device. Radio Cambridgeshire presented their interviews with World War I soldiers. https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22%20AND%20audio

Today I use Facebook to share information online

Fenland History on Facebook is a group devoted to Cambridge and the whole of the County – not just the Flat Black bit

Each day posts are seen by more than 25,000 people.
They have a wealth of knowledge they are delighted to share

Just as in a Library

Internet Archive Search: creator:"Mike P

https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A"Mike%20Petty"

Bookmarks | Fenland History on Face... | Stretham & Grunty Fen... | Internet Archive Search:... | Gmail - Inbox - mikepet... | Aerial photots | Other bookmarks | Reading list

356 RESULTS

SORT BY RELEVANCE · VIEWS · TITLE · DATE ARCHIVED · CREATOR

Media Type

- texts 356

Availability

Year

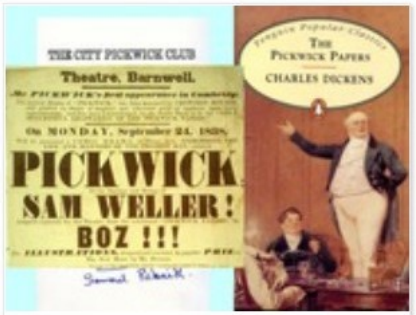
- 2021 5
- 2020 10
- 2019
- 2018
- 2017
- 2016

More

Topics & Subjects

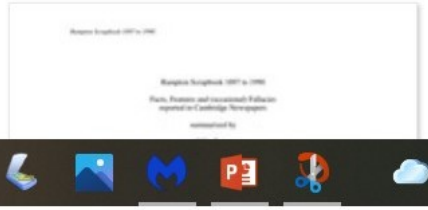
- Cambridge 163
- Cambridgeshire 118
- Ely 9

River Cam Mill Pool To Baits Bite By MIke Petty
by Mike Petty



Pickwick Cambridge Scrapbook
by Mike Petty

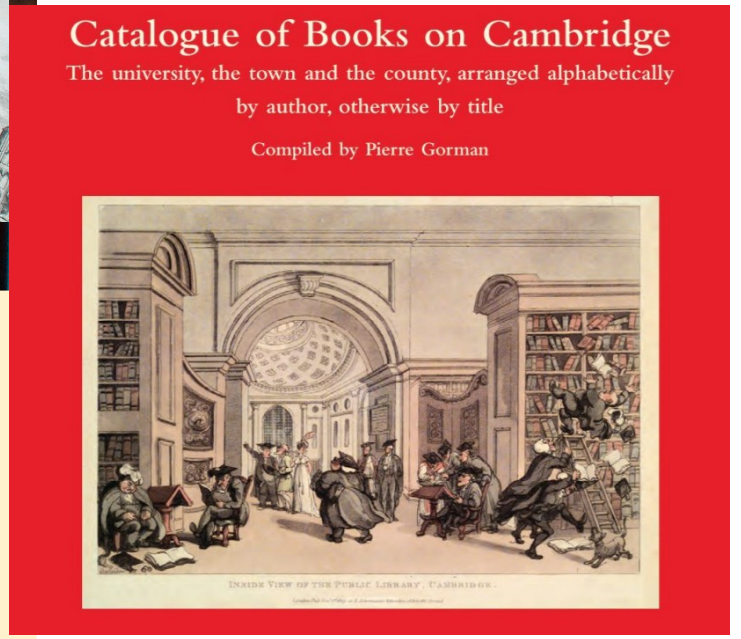
Hundreds of files have been published on *Internet Archive* where they can be read, downloaded and used freely.
There were over 70,000 users during 'lock-down' when libraries and archives were closed
https://archive.org/details/MikesOnlineResources



Type here to search

14°C ENG 08:57 01/09/2021

History shows that physical libraries *will* be lost.
William Cole, the great Antiquarian, lamented: ‘To give my manuscripts to King’s College would be to throw them into a horse pond’.
The Stretham pond has been filled in



The material that I have is just a fraction of what is already in the Cambridgeshire Collection.

Cambridgeshire Archives, at Ely***,*** state ‘Your catalogue does not fit our collecting policy so we are unable to accept the donation’.

Cambridge University Library may offer some of it a home – perhaps in its store on the old Witchford airfield, or at the ***Pierre Gorman*** collection at Melbourne University Library

Museum of Cambridge

Home Visit About Blog What's On Collections Learn Vol

Capturing Cambridge Open Day

Meantime I share it with the magnificent ***Capturing Cambridgeshire*** site from the ***Museum of Cambridge***, a site reflecting the work of ***Enid Porter,*** i

Capturing Cambridge Open Day on 28th March was set up as a one-day event to allow locals of Cambridge city and the wider county the opportunity to record and share their histories. Created as an in-person event to support the Capturing Cambridge project, members of the public were encouraged to bring along any pictures or documents to help tell their stories about the schools they studied or the places they worked in Cambridge.

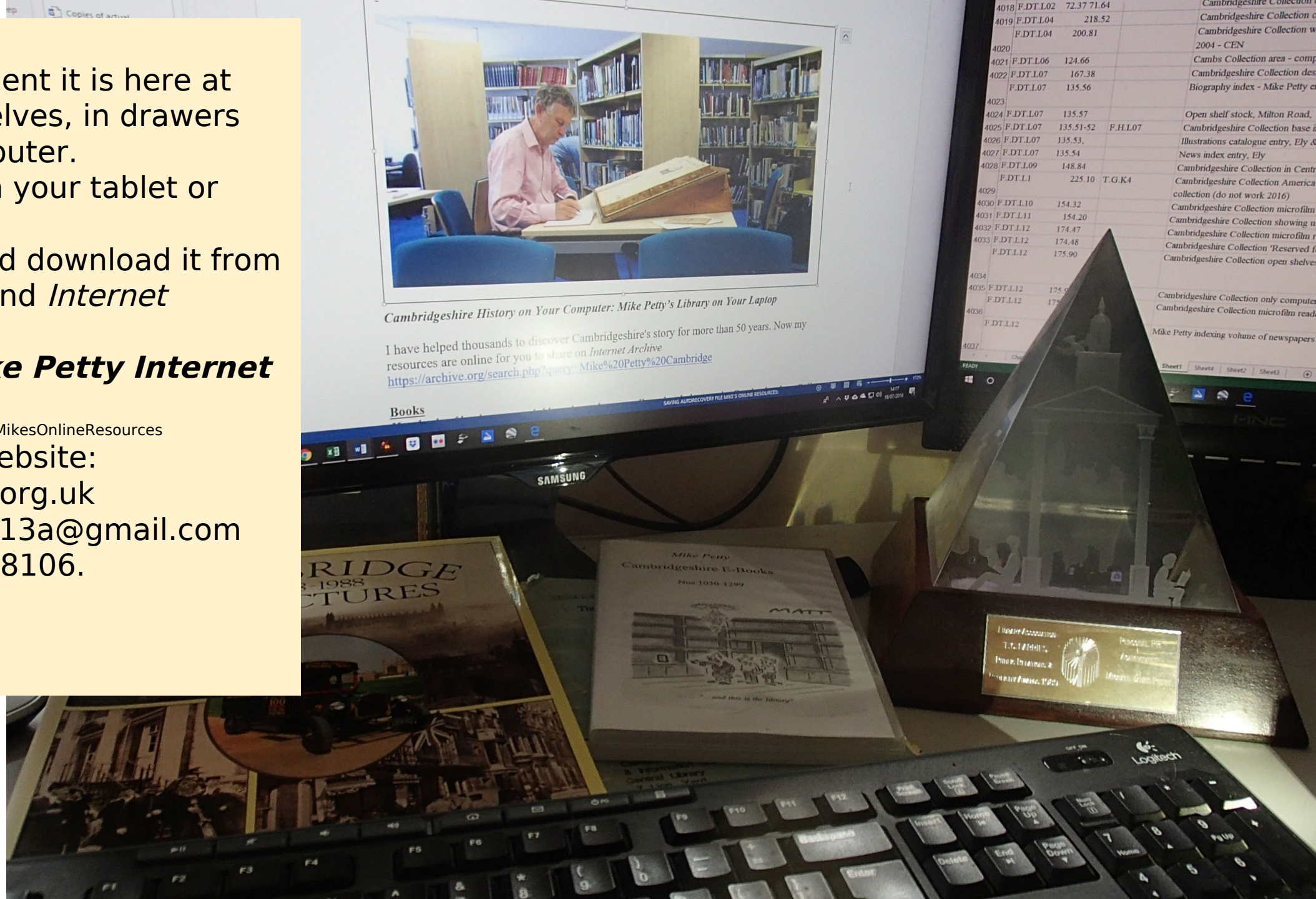
Museum

News

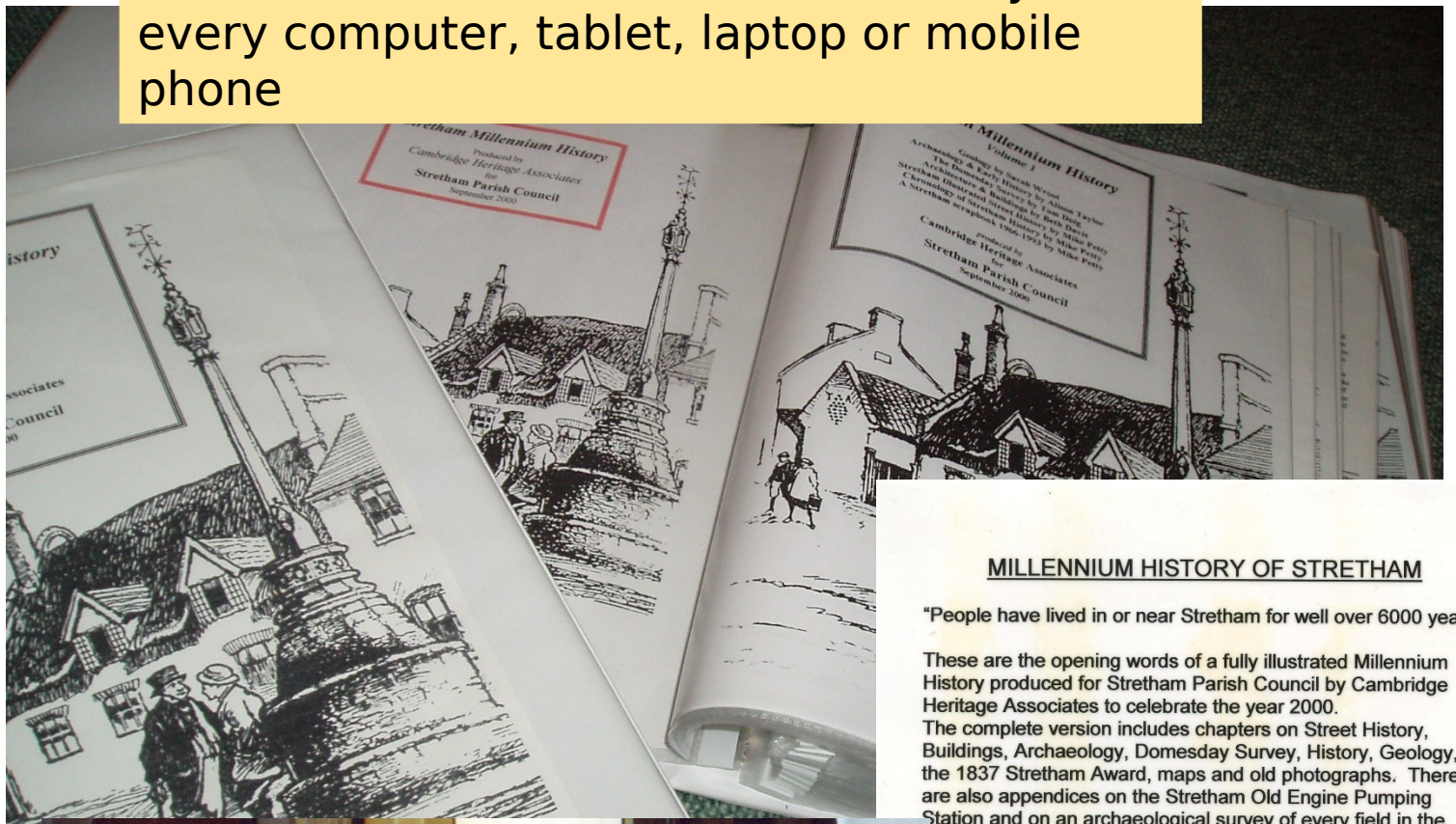
Projects

Shop

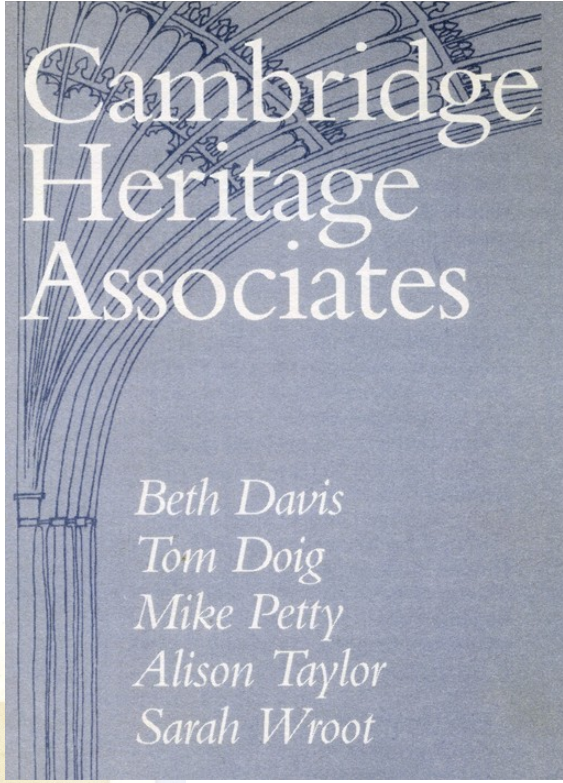
But for the moment it is here at Stretham on shelves, in drawers and on my computer.
It is also here on your tablet or laptop.
You can read and download it from *Google Photos* and *Internet Archive.*
Just search ***'Mike Petty Internet Archive'***
Click https://archive.org/details/MikesOnlineResources
Check out my website:
www.mikepetty.org.uk
email mikepetty13a@gmail.com
phone 01353 648106.
Or just ask



There is now another Stretham history on every computer, tablet, laptop or mobile phone



Cambridge Heritage Associates – Beth Davis, Alison Taylor, Sarah Wroot, Tom Doig - with Mike Young – produced a ***Stretham Millennium History in 2000***.



MILLENNIUM HISTORY OF STRETHAM

"People have lived in or near Stretham for well over 6000 years"

These are the opening words of a fully illustrated Millennium History produced for Stretham Parish Council by Cambridge Heritage Associates to celebrate the year 2000.
The complete version includes chapters on Street History, Buildings, Archaeology, Domesday Survey, History, Geology, the 1837 Stretham Award, maps and old photographs. There are also appendices on the Stretham Old Engine Pumping Station and on an archaeological survey of every field in the parish undertaken during the year 2000.

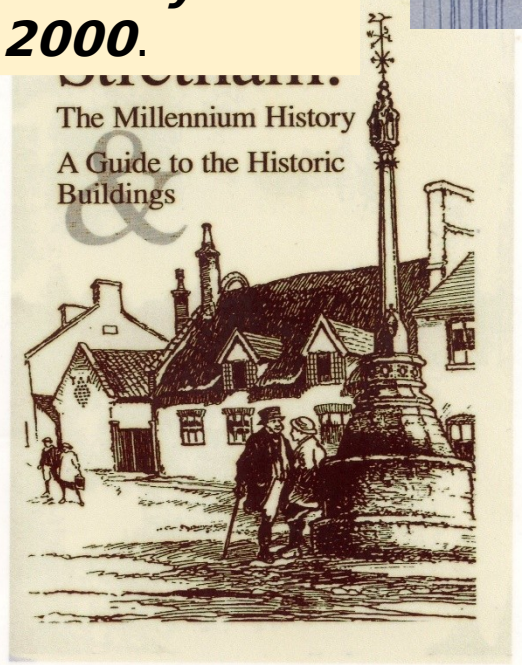
Complete version - left (CD).

Price: £10-00

Abridged version - right. 36 pages A5 booklet

Price: £2-50

Obtainable here

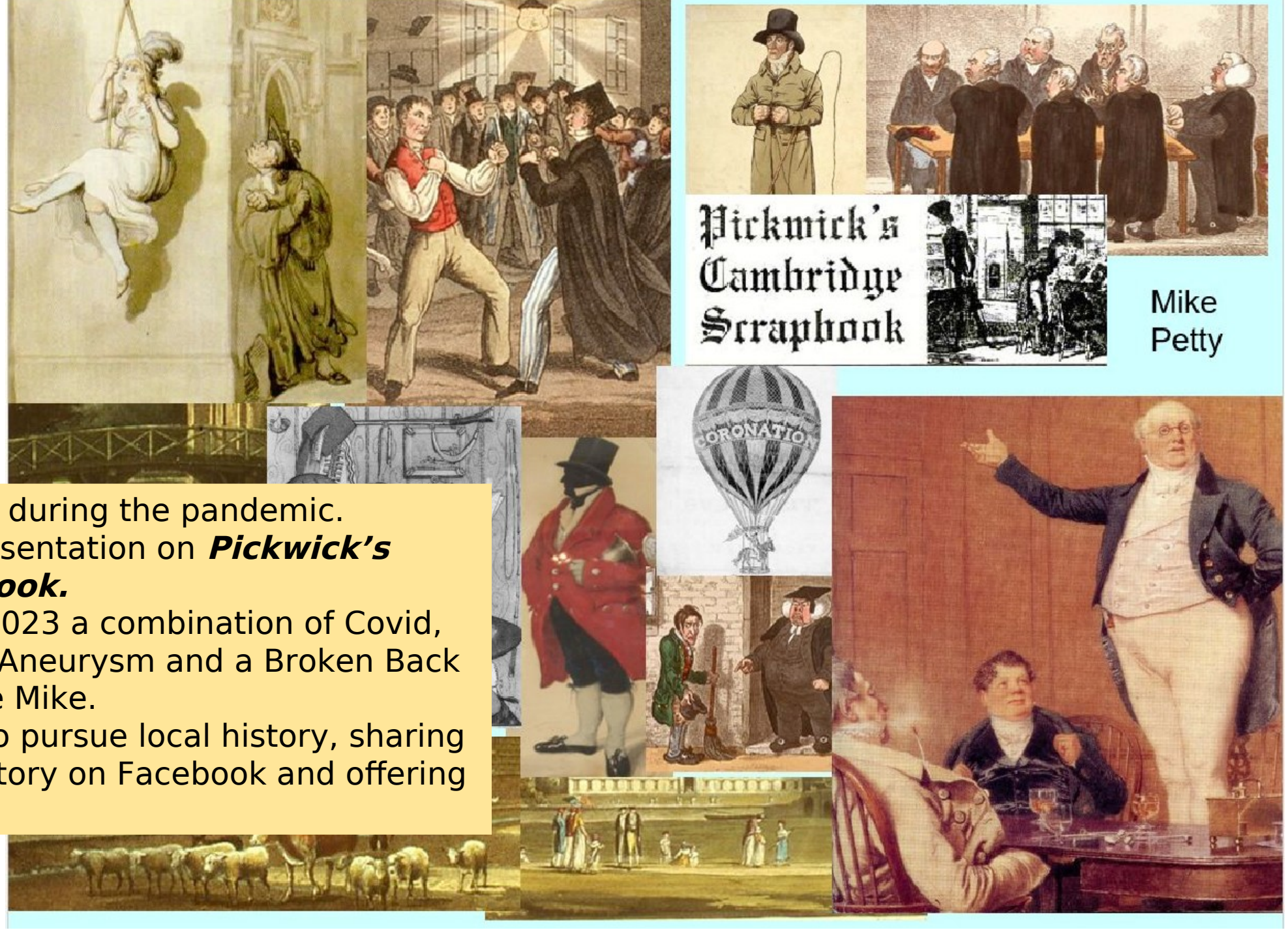


https://archive.org/details/StrethamMillenniumHistoryMikePetty2015

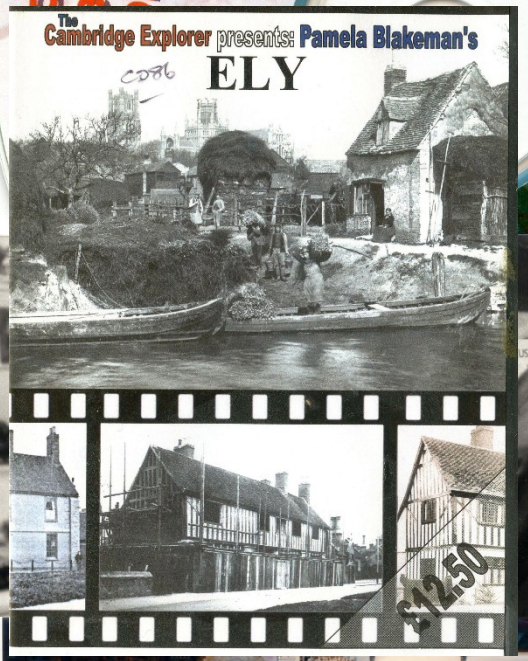
https://flic.kr/s/aHskRK2dgU

I will continue to explore aspects of my home community and still hope to find postcards that have eluded me over the last 70+ years.

www.mikepetty.org.uk *mikepetty13a@gmail.com*



Talks were restricted during the pandemic.
I restarted with a presentation on ***Pickwick's Cambridge Scrapbook.***
But on Good Friday 2023 a combination of Covid, an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and a Broken Back severely incapacitate Mike.
I continue however to pursue local history, sharing posts on Fenland History on Facebook and offering advice.



I have been privileged to meet and been able to assist thousands of folk to discover Cambridgeshire ‘history’ and help them share it with others

Seventy Years of Collecting Cambridgeshire has been possible only through the support of one person – who is hiding behind this picture.

Grandad was a Rat Catcher.

He didn't do computers – like so many other people

But he had an interest in the history of his locality

If he knew his grandson would give his last lecture to ***Cambridge Antiquarian Society*** and ***Cambridgeshire Association for Local History***

I know what he would have said:

Gor d'blimey. What a Rummon.

Virtually everything on my screen can also be found on whatever device you are viewing.

It is my library on your laptop.

It includes 'Seventy Years of Collecting Cambridgeshire'